Duggan
Garrón
Laiso
Hollowell

UNCANNY AVENGERS

THE RESISTANCE

MARVEL

UNCANNY

AVENGERS

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UNCANNY AVENGERS
THE RESISTANCE

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GARRÓN '22
MOI

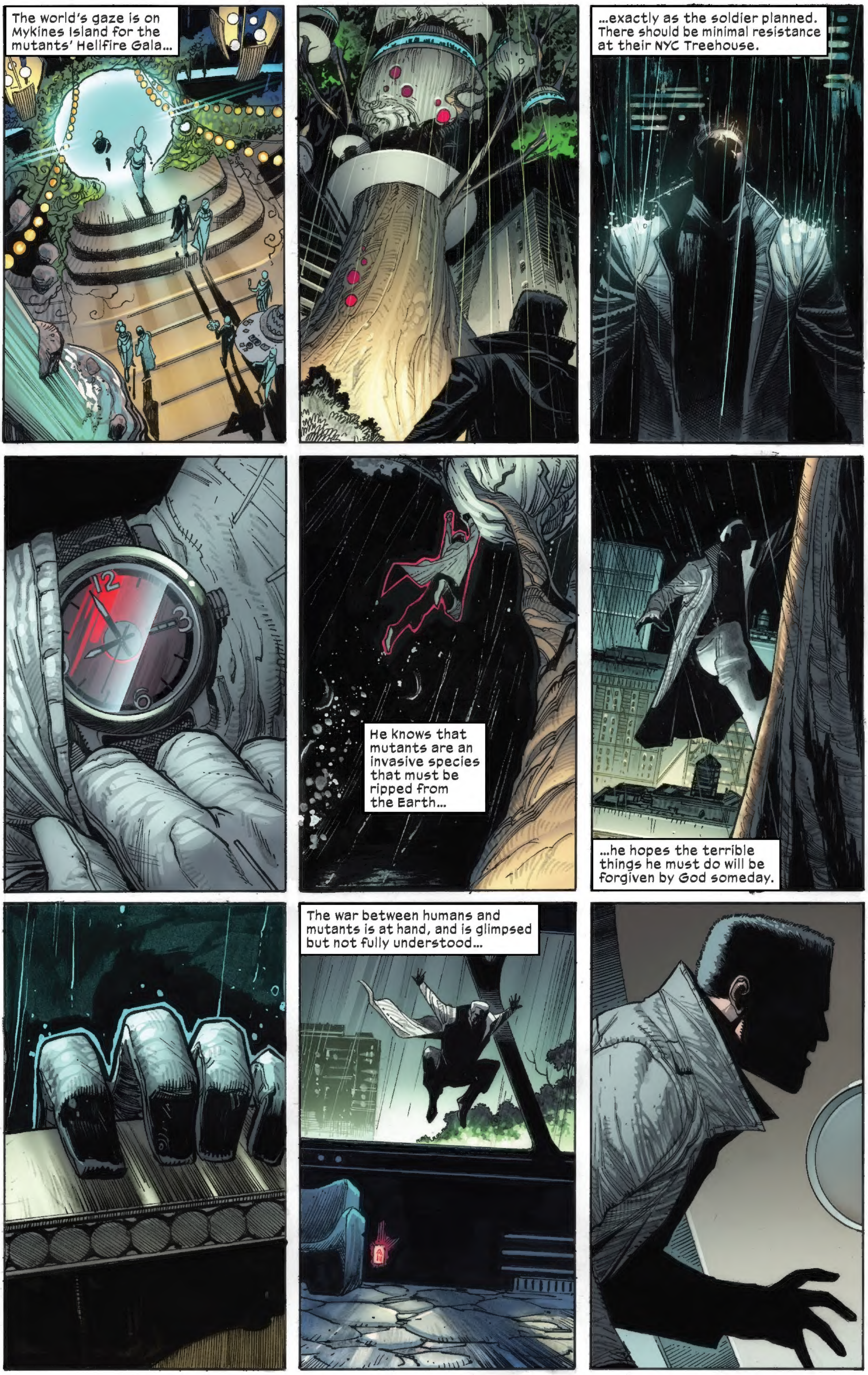
Prescribed Burn and Controlled Demolition

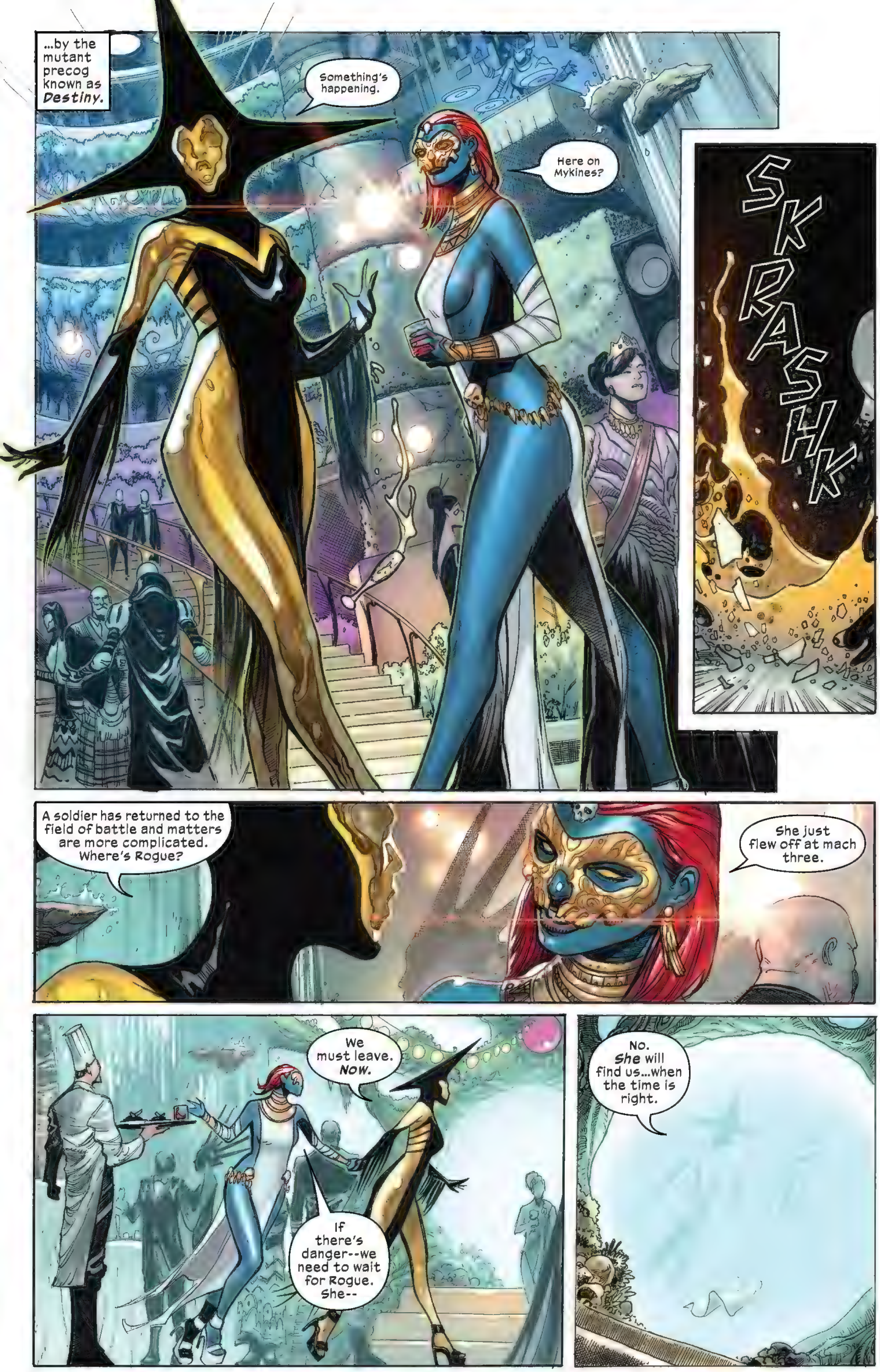
P

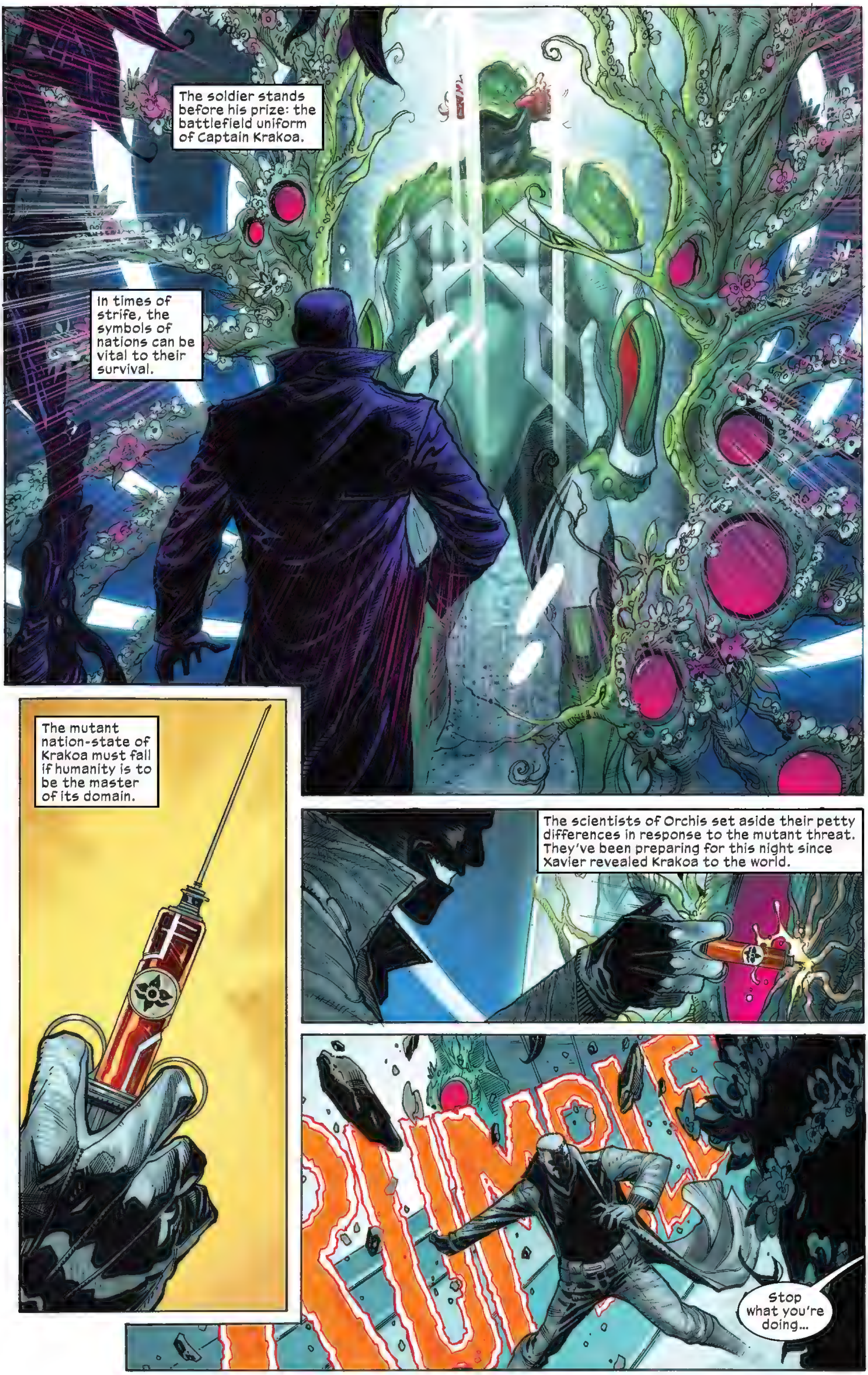
PRESCRIBED BURN

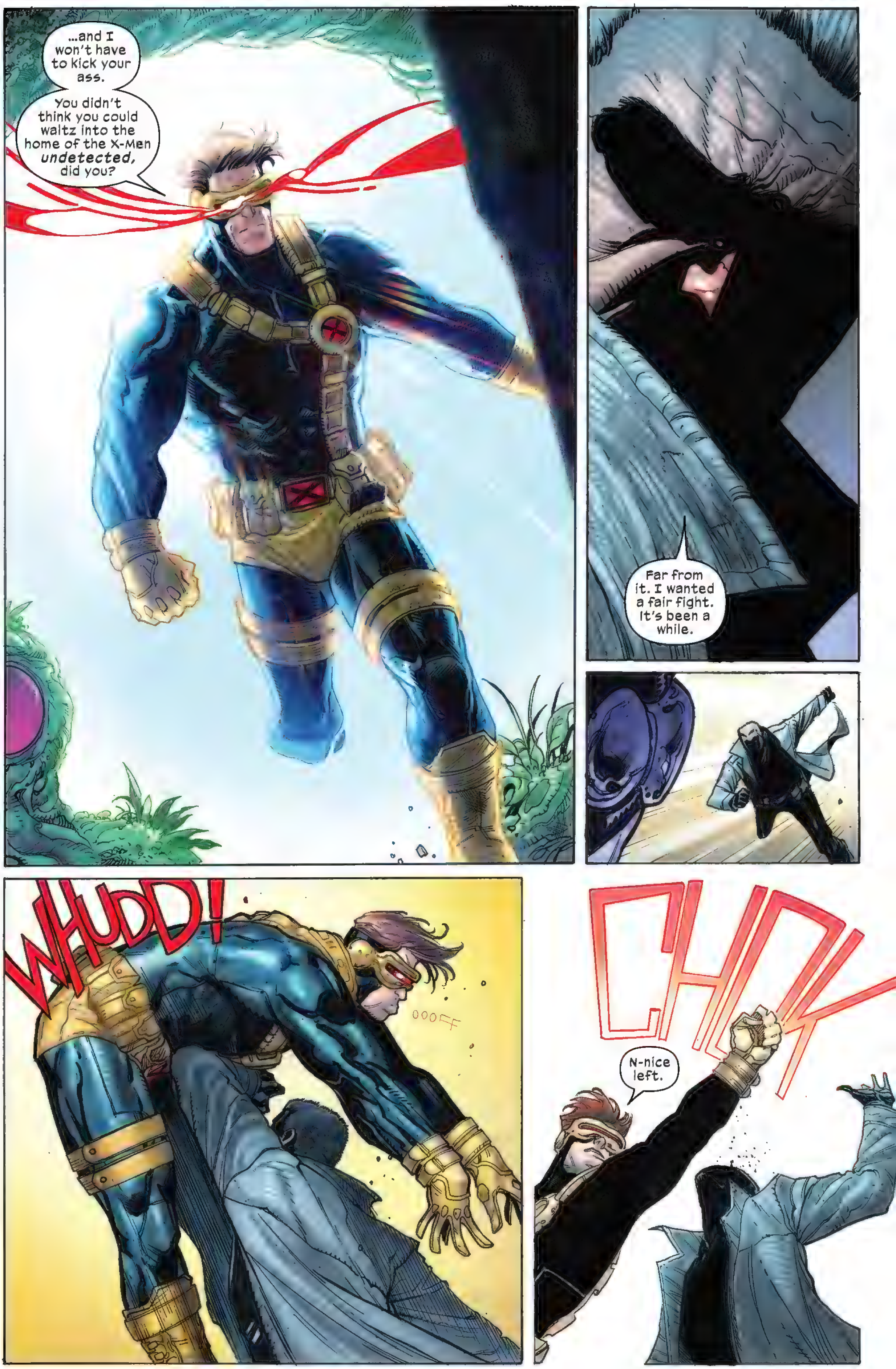
The island-nation of Krakoa has undergone as many triumphs as tribulations since its founding. From the successful terraforming of Mars to the advent of the resurrection process -- meaning that no mutant ever has to die again.

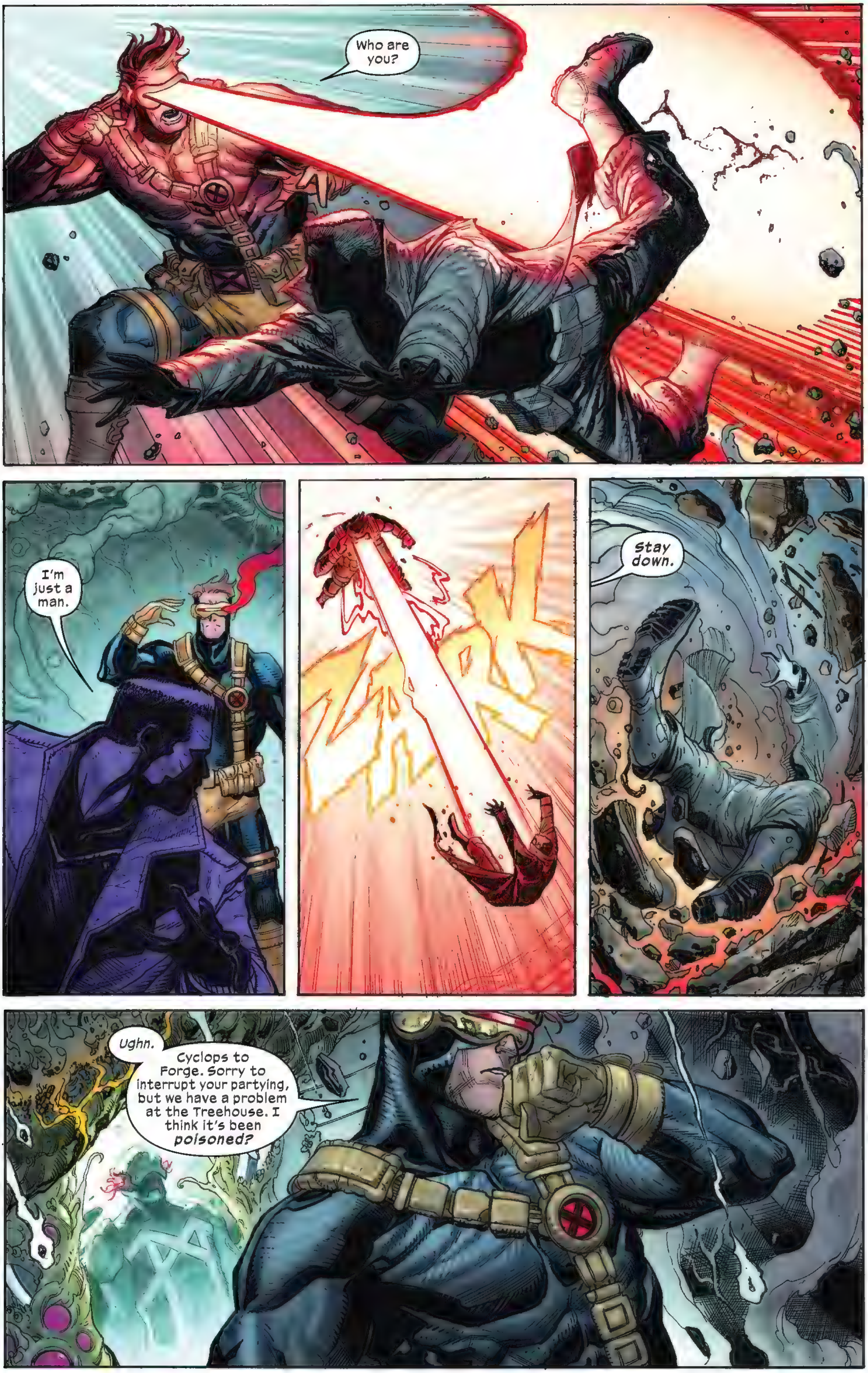
However, knowing the controversy that keeping resurrection accessible only to mutants would cause, mutants have successfully kept it a secret -- even going so far as to create the new mutant persona, Captain Krakoa, for Cyclops following his public demise -- until recently. With the secret out, and the anti-mutant organization Orchis' growing influence, tensions between humans and mutants have been growing, and it's only a matter of time before someone acts on it.

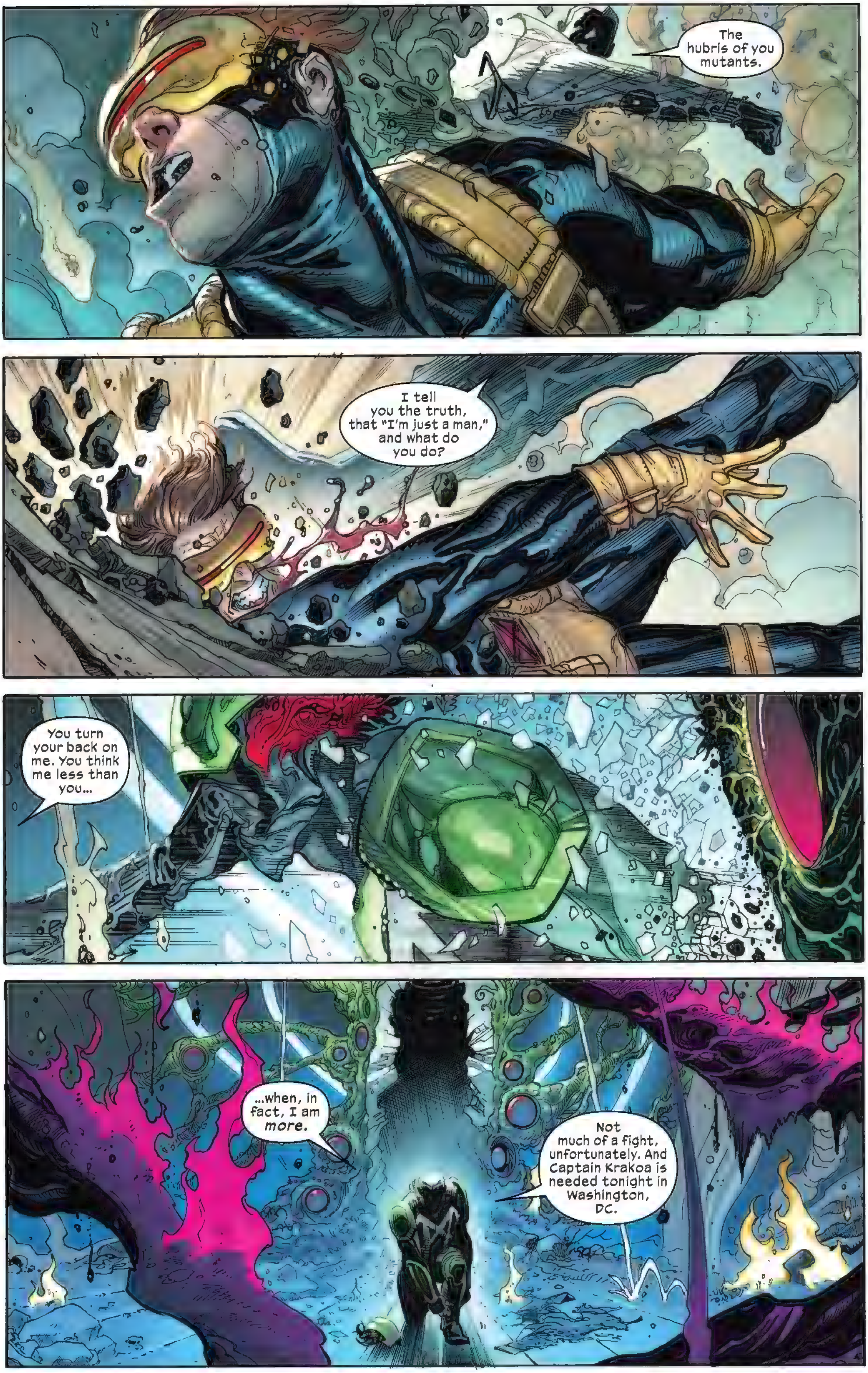

The world's gaze is on Mykines Island for the mutants' Hellfire Gala...
...exactly as the soldier planned. There should be minimal resistance at their NYC Treehouse.
He knows that mutants are an invasive species that must be ripped from the Earth...
...he hopes the terrible things he must do will be forgiven by God someday.
The war between humans and mutants is at hand, and is glimpsed but not fully understood...

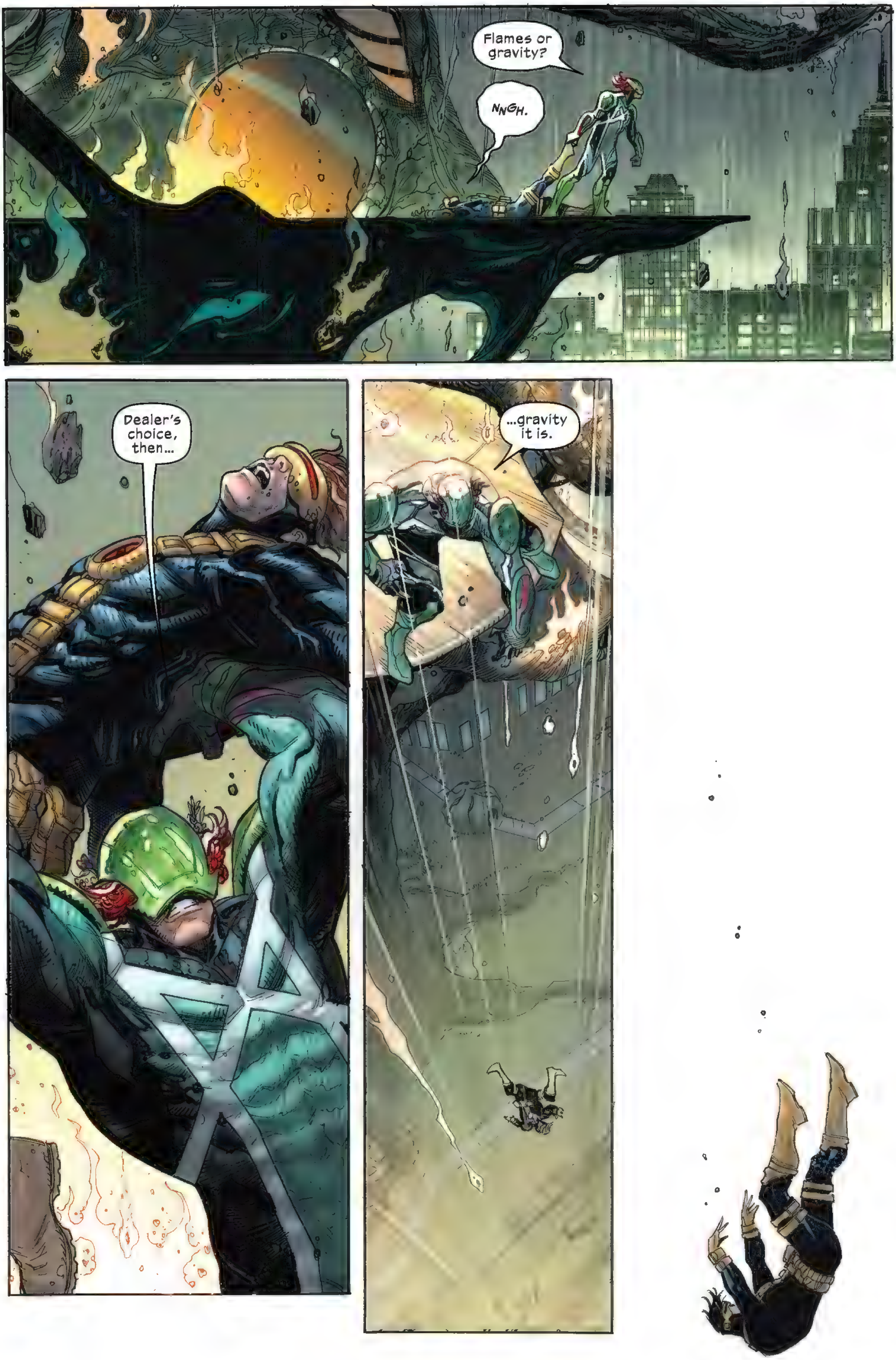

...by the mutant precog known as *Destiny*.
Something's happening.
Here on Mykines?
SKRASHK
A soldier has returned to the field of battle and matters are more complicated. Where's Rogue?
She just flew off at mach three.
We must leave. *Now.*
If there's danger--we need to wait for Rogue. She--
No. *She* will find us...when the time is right.

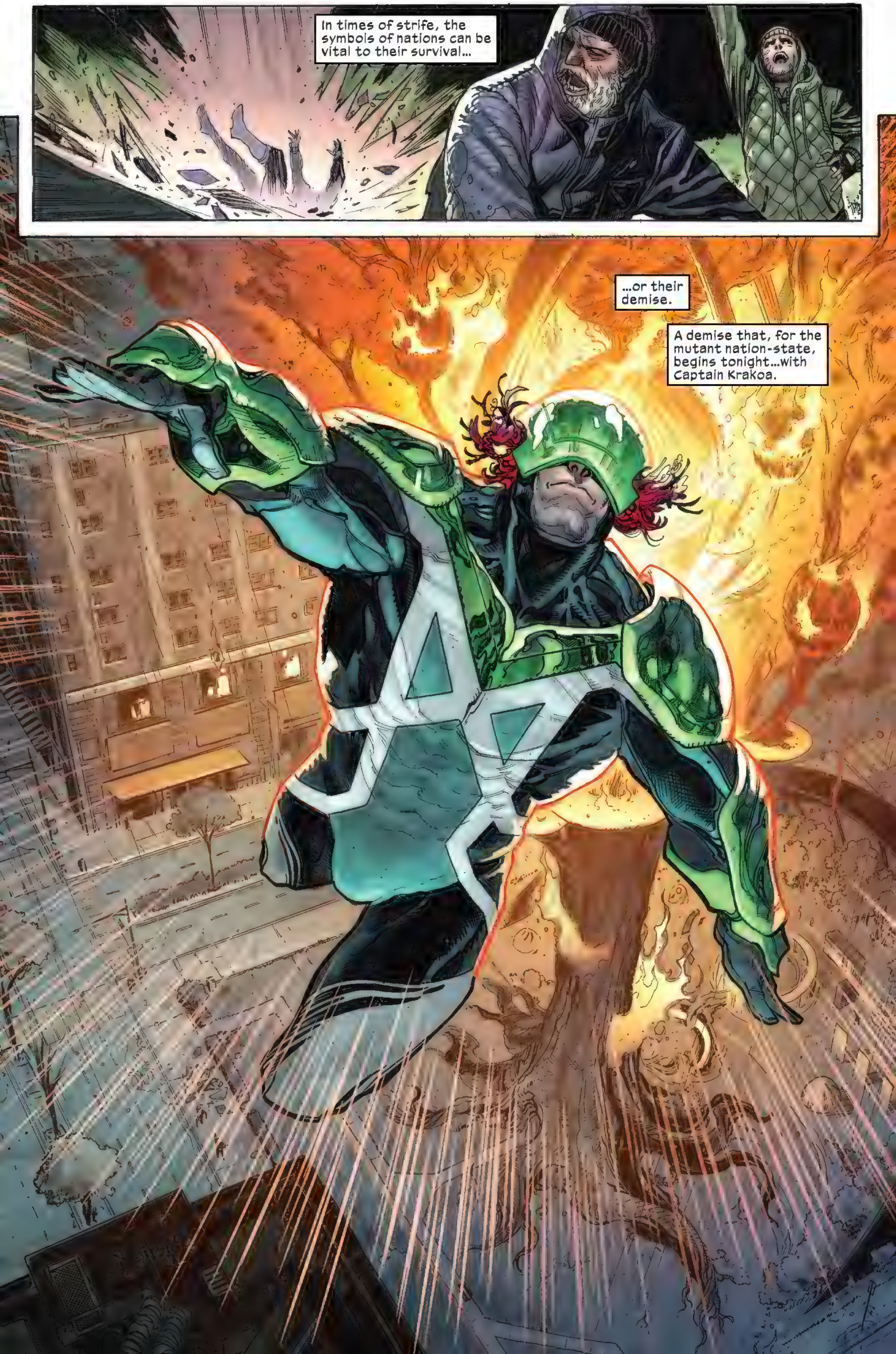

The soldier stands before his prize: the battlefield uniform of Captain Krakoa.
In times of strife, the symbols of nations can be vital to their survival.
The mutant nation-state of Krakoa must fall if humanity is to be the master of its domain.
The scientists of Orchis set aside their petty differences in response to the mutant threat. They've been preparing for this night since Xavier revealed Krakoa to the world.
RUMBLE
Stop what you're doing...

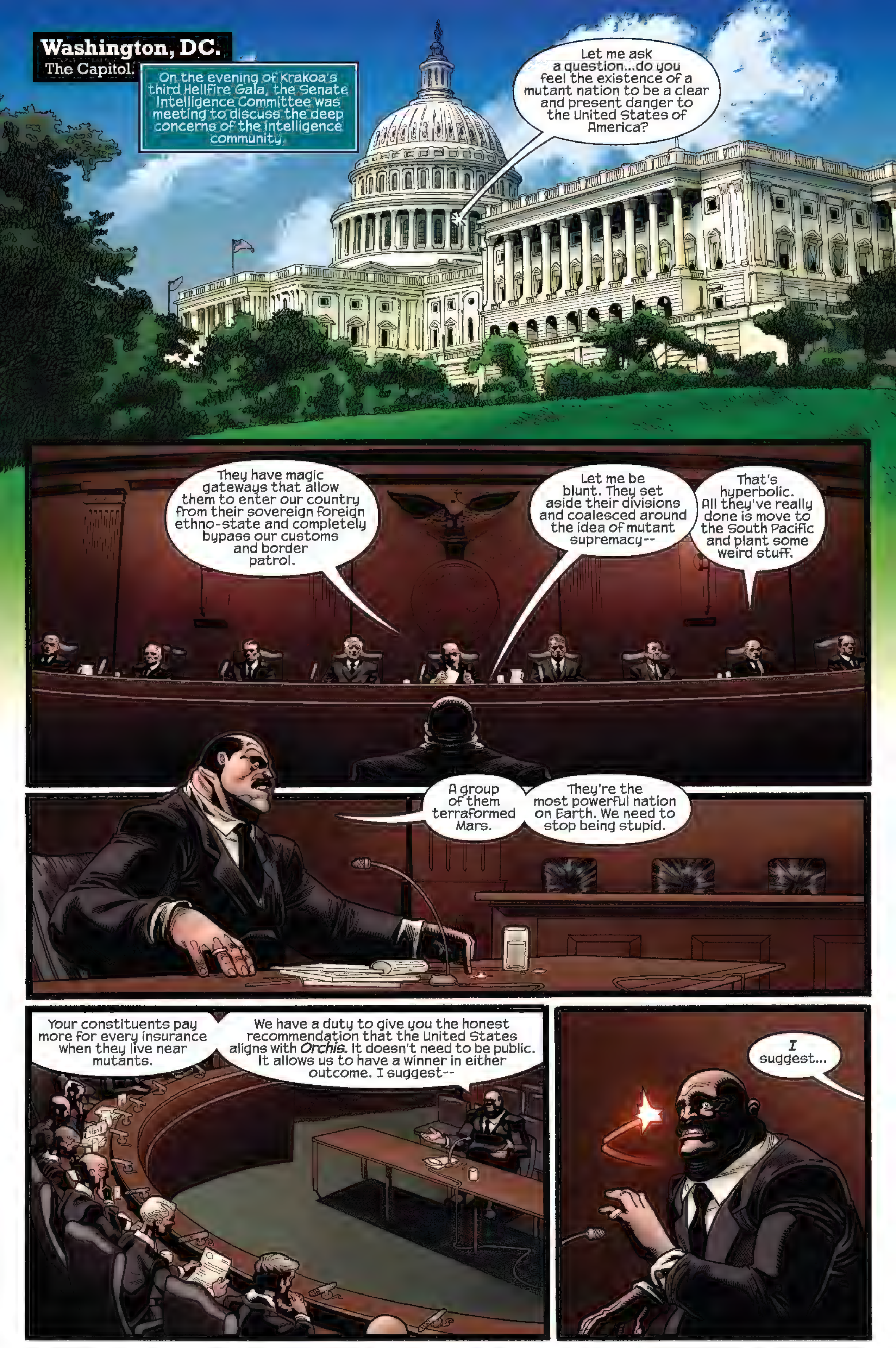

...and I won't have to kick your ass.
You didn't think you could waltz into the home of the X-Men *undetected,* did you?
Far from it. I wanted a fair fight. It's been a while.
WHUDD!
OOOFF
CHOK
N-nice left.

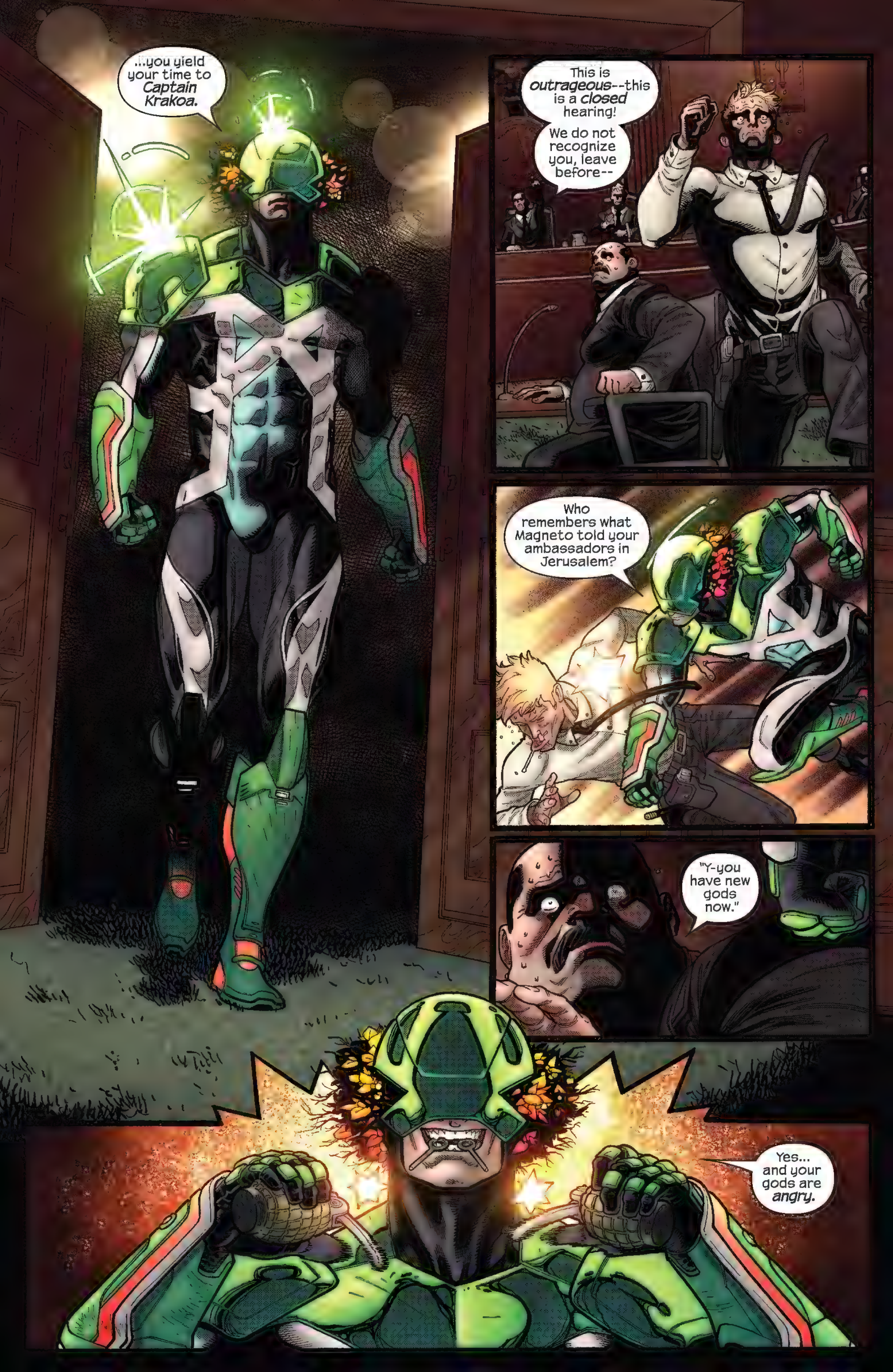

Who are you?
I'm just a man.
Stay down.
Ughn.
Cyclops to Forge. Sorry to interrupt your partying, but we have a problem at the Treehouse. I think it's been *poisoned?*

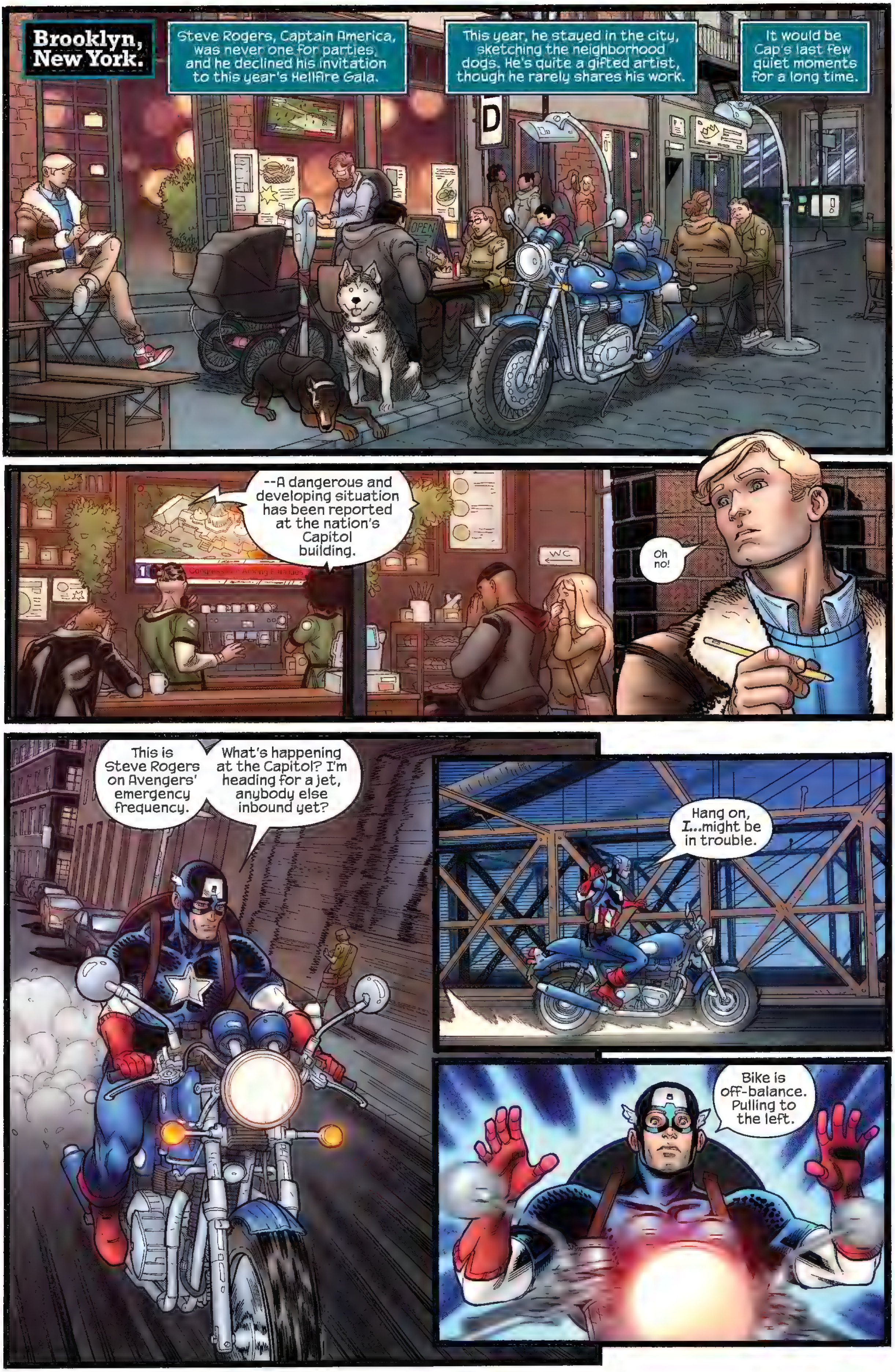

The hubris of you mutants.
I tell you the truth, that "I'm just a man," and what do you do?
You turn your back on me. You think me less than you...
...when, in fact, I am *more.*
Not much of a fight, unfortunately. And Captain Krakoa is needed tonight in Washington, DC.

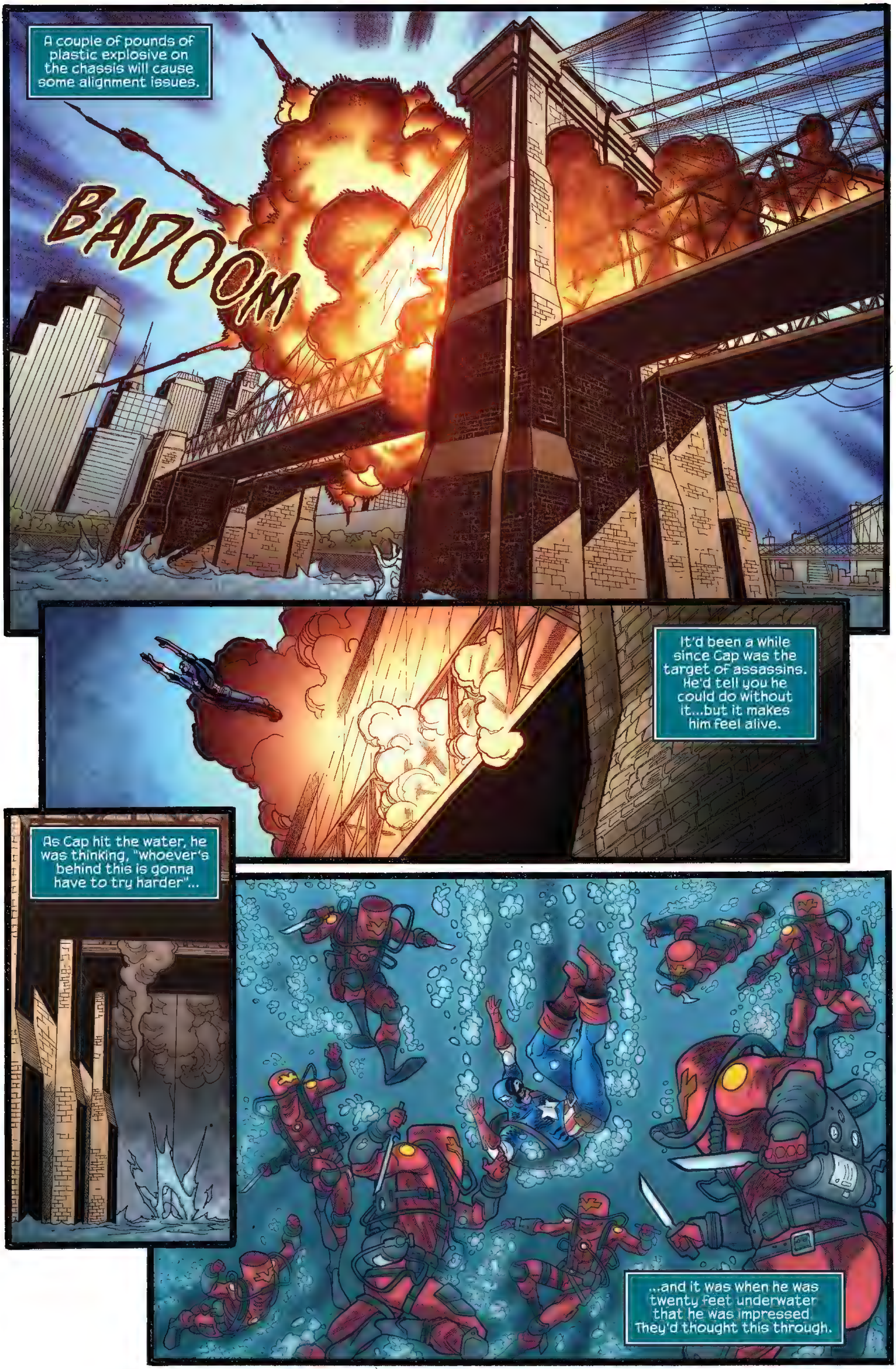

Flames or gravity?
NNGH.
Dealer's choice, then...
...gravity it is.

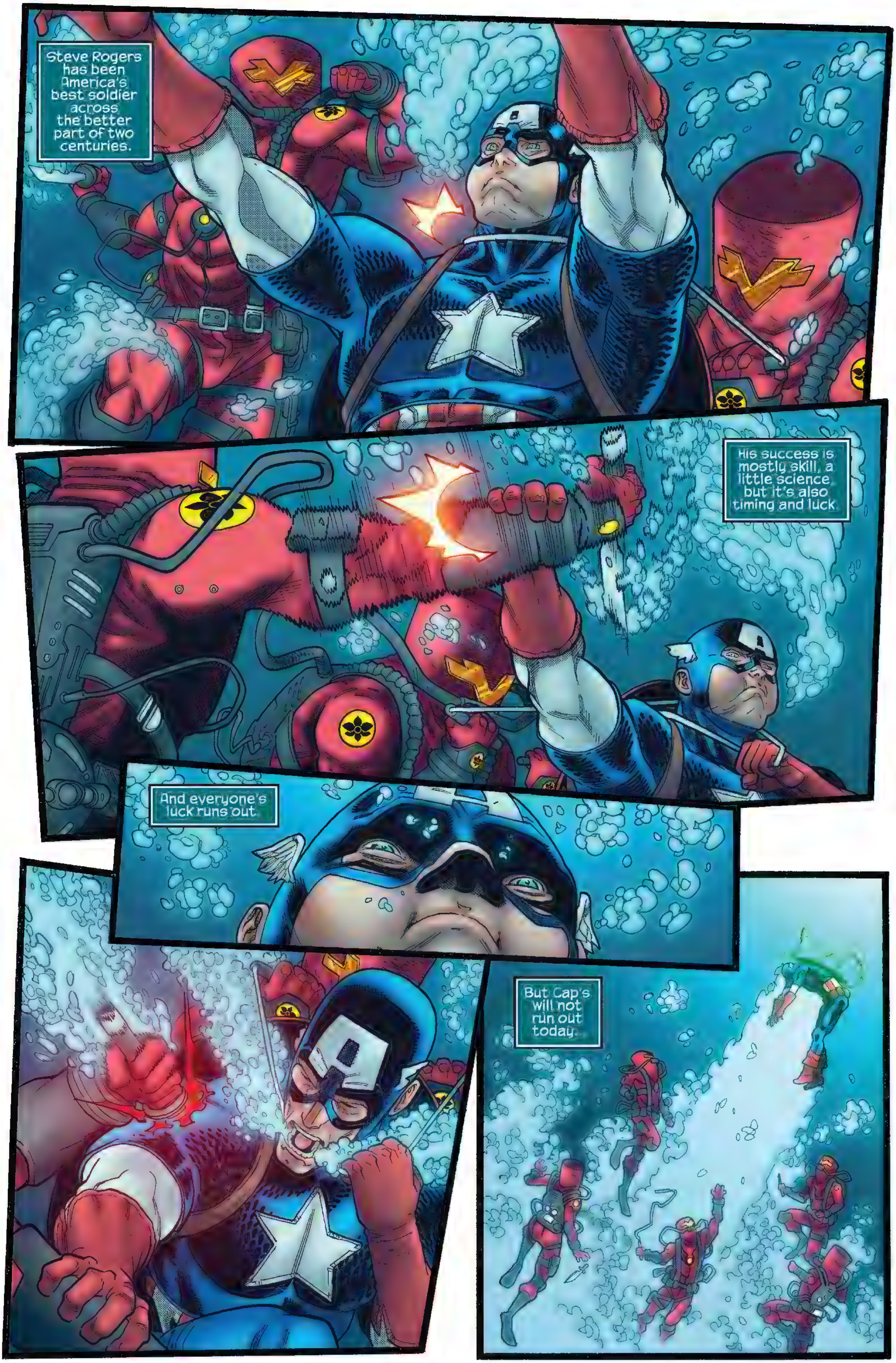

In times of strife, the symbols of nations can be vital to their survival...
...or their demise.
A demise that, for the mutant nation-state, begins tonight...with Captain Krakoa.

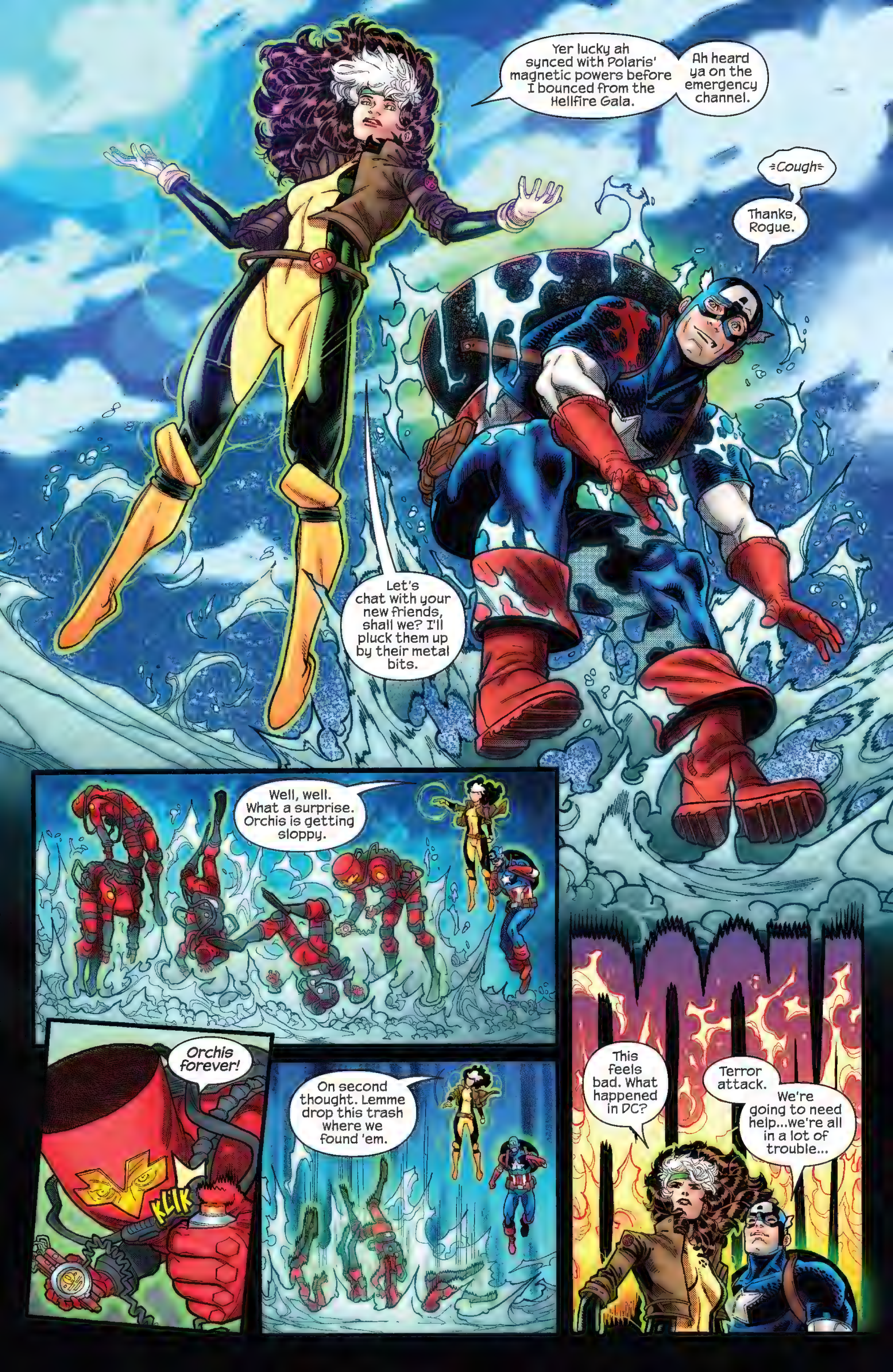

Washington, DC.
The Capitol.
On the evening of Krakoa's third Hellfire Gala, the Senate Intelligence Committee was meeting to discuss the deep concerns of the intelligence community.
Let me ask a question...do you feel the existence of a mutant nation to be a clear and present danger to the United States of America?
They have magic gateways that allow them to enter our country from their sovereign foreign ethno-state and completely bypass our customs and border patrol.
Let me be blunt. They set aside their divisions and coalesced around the idea of mutant supremacy--
That's hyperbolic. All they've really done is move to the South Pacific and plant some weird stuff.
A group of them terraformed Mars.
They're the most powerful nation on Earth. We need to stop being stupid.
Your constituents pay more for every insurance when they live near mutants.
We have a duty to give you the honest recommendation that the United States aligns with *Orchis.* It doesn't need to be public. It allows us to have a winner in either outcome. I suggest--
I suggest...

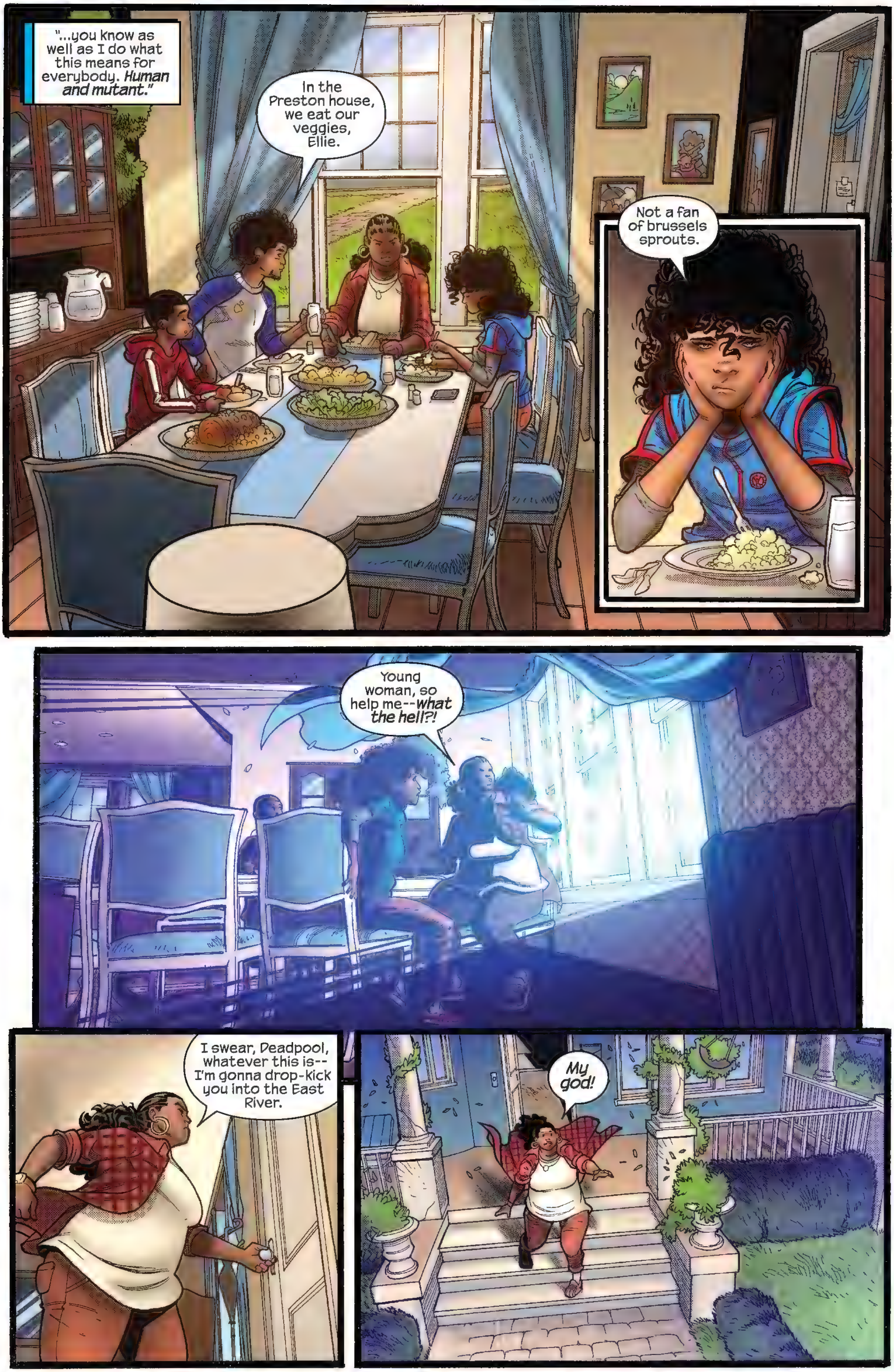

...you yield your time to *Captain Krakoa.*
This is *outrageous*--this is a *closed* hearing!
We do not recognize you, leave before--
Who remembers what Magneto told your ambassadors in Jerusalem?
"Y-you have new gods now."
Yes... and your gods are *angry.*

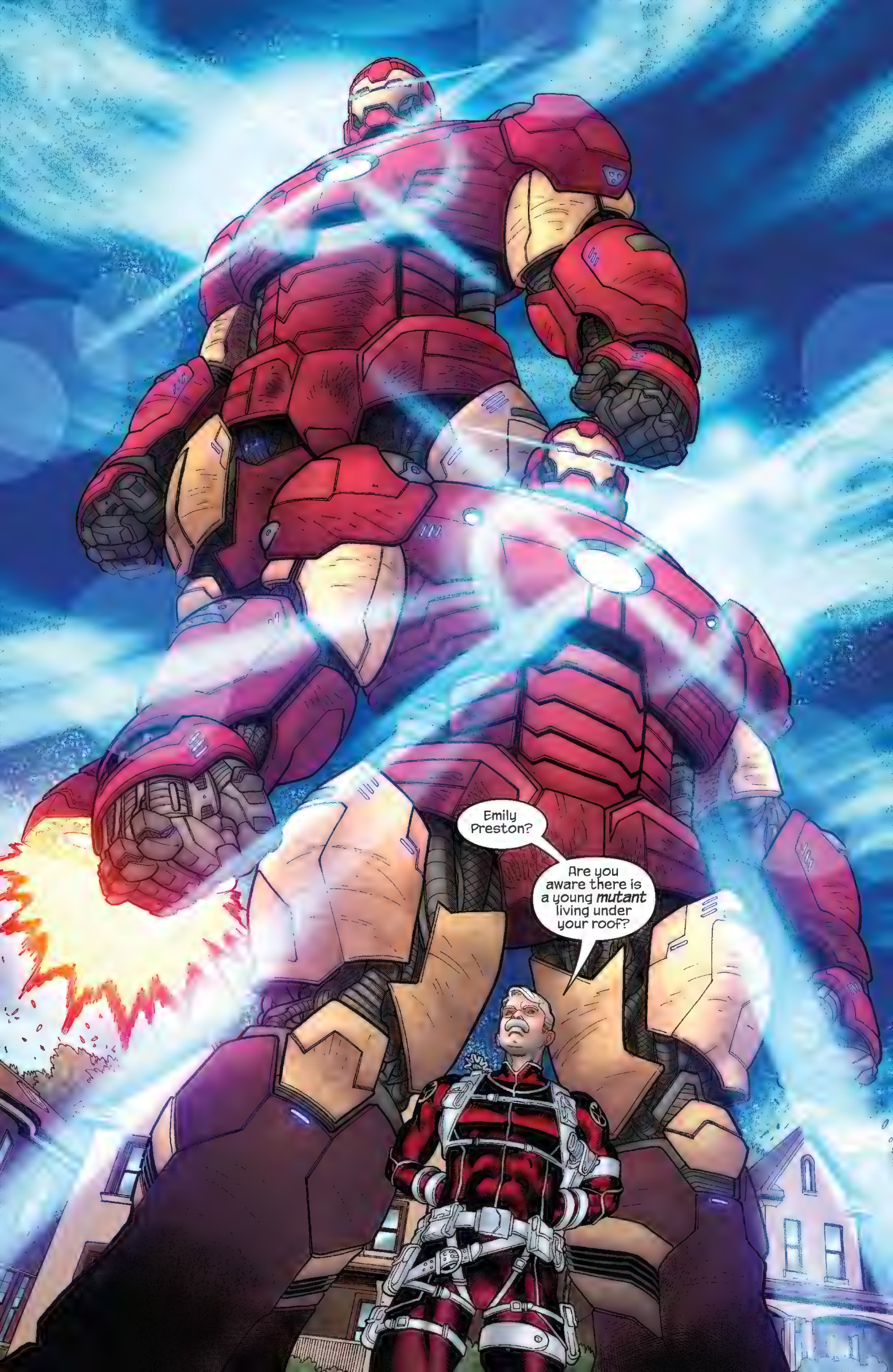

Brooklyn, New York.
Steve Rogers, Captain America, was never one for parties, and he declined his invitation to this year's Hellfire Gala.
This year, he stayed in the city, sketching the neighborhood dogs. He's quite a gifted artist, though he rarely shares his work.
It would be Cap's last few quiet moments for a long time.
D
OPEN
--A dangerous and developing situation has been reported at the nation's Capitol building.
WC
Oh no!
This is Steve Rogers on Avengers' emergency frequency.
What's happening at the Capitol? I'm heading for a jet, anybody else inbound yet?
Hang on, *I*...might be in trouble.
Bike is off-balance. Pulling to the left.


A couple of pounds of plastic explosive on the chassis will cause some alignment issues.
BADOOM
It'd been a while since Cap was the target of assassins. He'd tell you he could do without it...but it makes him feel alive.
As Cap hit the water, he was thinking, "whoever's behind this is gonna have to try harder"...
...and it was when he was twenty feet underwater that he was impressed. They'd thought this through.


Steve Rogers has been America's best soldier across the better part of two centuries.
His success is mostly skill, a little science but it's also timing and luck
And everyone's luck runs out.
But Cap's will not run out today.

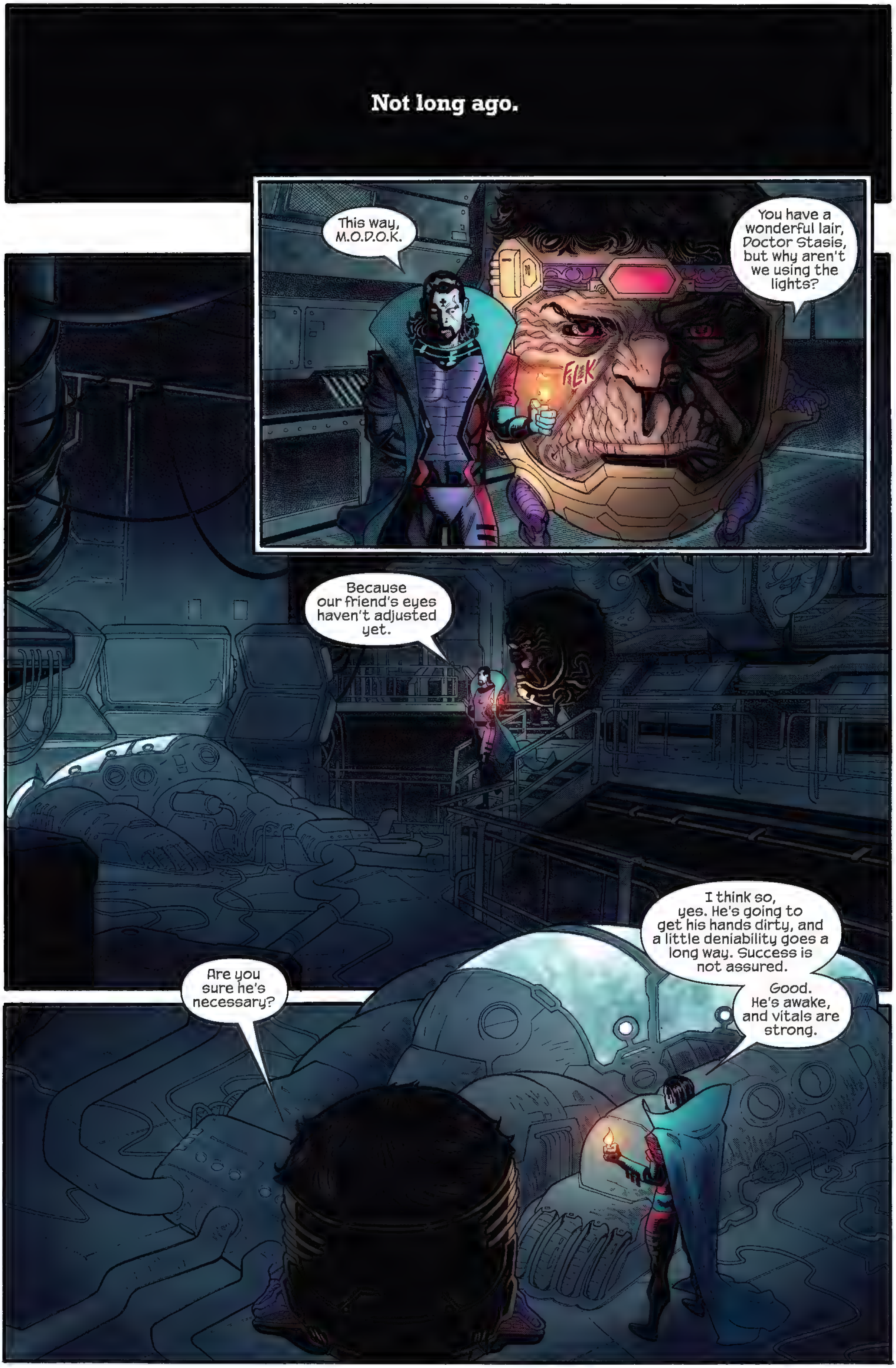

Yer lucky ah synced with Polaris' magnetic powers before I bounced from the Hellfire Gala.
Ah heard ya on the emergency channel.
=Cough=
Thanks, Rogue.
Let's chat with your new friends, shall we? I'll pluck them up by their metal bits.
Well, well. What a surprise. Orchis is getting sloppy.
Orchis forever!
KLIK
On second thought. Lemme drop this trash where we found 'em.
This feels bad. What happened in DC?
Terror attack.
We're going to need help...we're all in a lot of trouble...

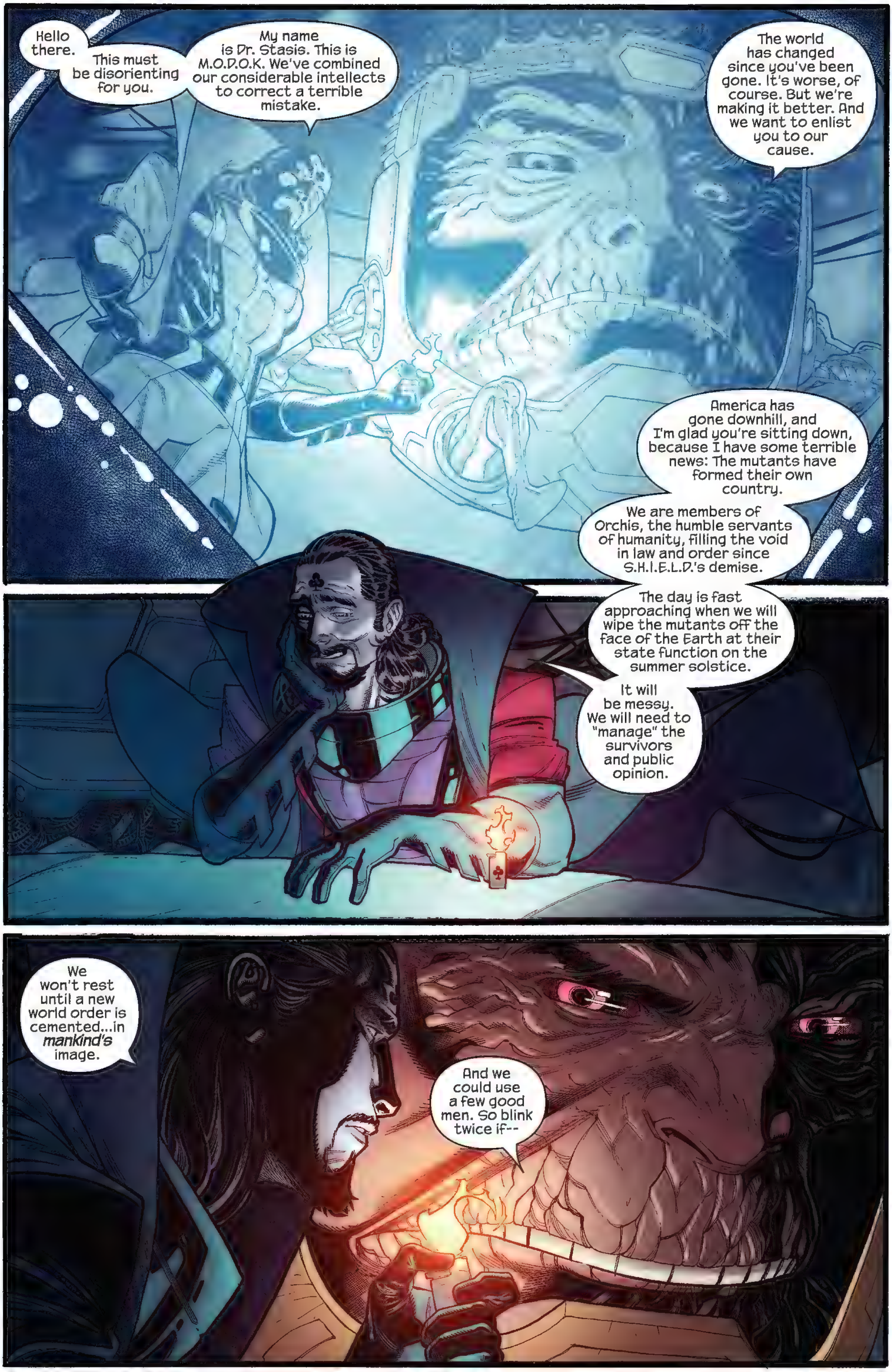

"...you know as well as I do what this means for everybody. *Human and mutant.*"
In the Preston house, we eat our veggies, Ellie.
Not a fan of brussels sprouts.
Young woman, so help me--*what the hell?!*
I swear, Deadpool, whatever this is--I'm gonna drop-kick you into the East River.
My god!

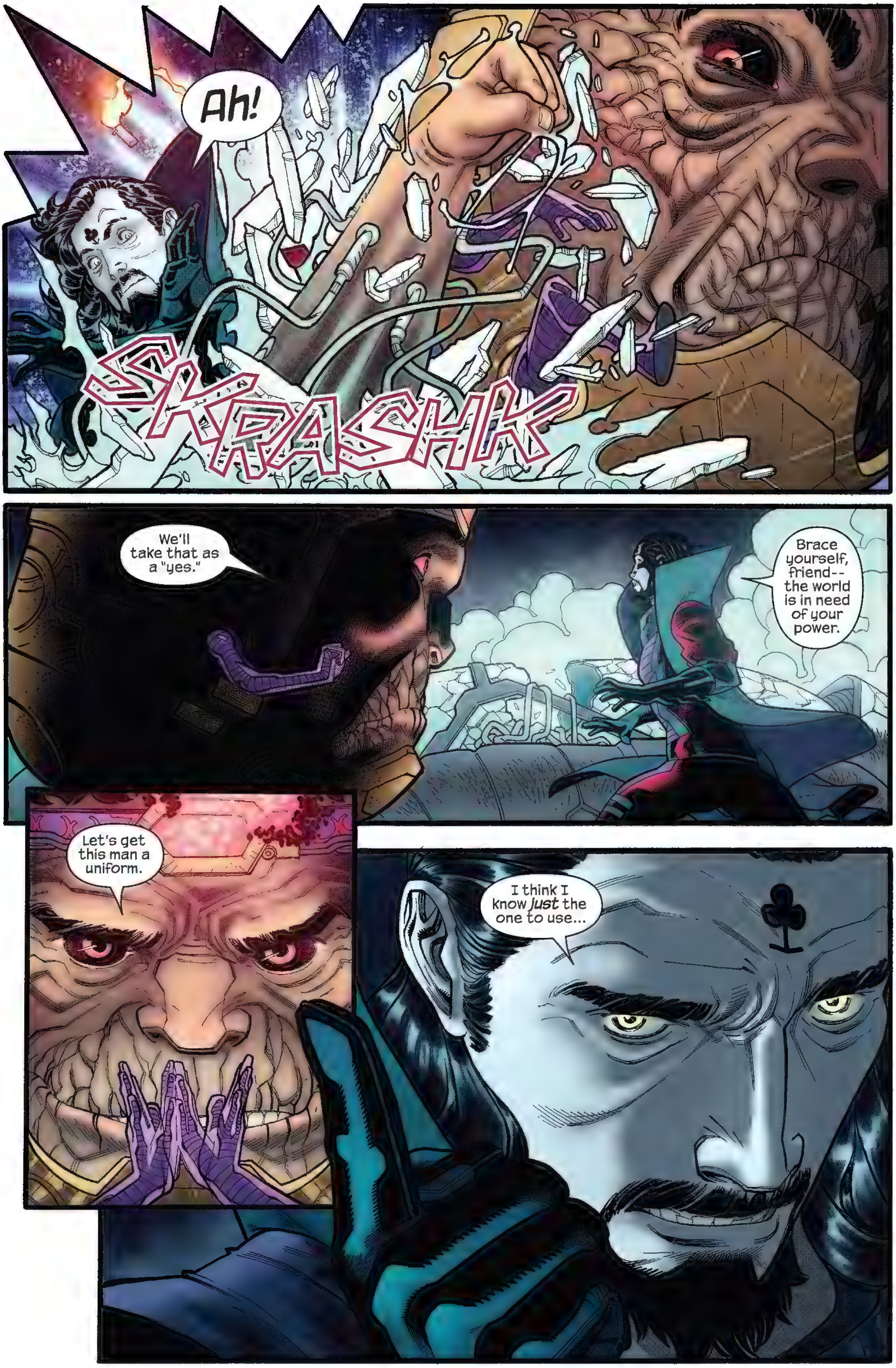

Emily Preston?
Are you aware there is a young *mutant* living under your roof?

Truth & Justice

1


Not long ago.
This way, M.O.D.O.K.
You have a wonderful lair, Doctor Stasis, but why aren't we using the lights?
FLIK
Because our friend's eyes haven't adjusted yet.
Are you sure he's necessary?
I think so, yes. He's going to get his hands dirty, and a little deniability goes a long way. Success is not assured.
Good. He's awake, and vitals are strong.


Hello there.
This must be disorienting for you.
My name is Dr. Stasis. This is M.O.D.O.K. We've combined our considerable intellects to correct a terrible mistake.
The world has changed since you've been gone. It's worse, of course. But we're making it better. And we want to enlist you to our cause.
America has gone downhill, and I'm glad you're sitting down, because I have some terrible news: The mutants have formed their own country.
We are members of Orchis, the humble servants of humanity, filling the void in law and order since S.H.I.E.L.D.'s demise.
The day is fast approaching when we will wipe the mutants off the face of the Earth at their state function on the summer solstice.
It will be messy. We will need to "manage" the survivors and public opinion.
We won't rest until a new world order is cemented...in *mankind's* image.
And we could use a few good men. So blink twice if--


Ah!
SKRASHK
We'll take that as a "yes."
Brace yourself, friend-- the world is in need of your power.
Let's get this man a uniform.
I think I know *just* the one to use...

FALL OF X

[fall of]
[X]

To foster unity between humanity and the mutant nation of Krakoa, Earth's mightiest heroes, the Avengers, and the mutant X-Men formed a single team to help defend the Earth. Together they are the…

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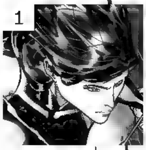
Mutantkind is more endangered than ever before. The anti-mutant organization **Orchis** attacked the Hellfire Gala and issued an ultimatum: For every mutant found on the planet, Orchis will annihilate increasing numbers of humans. With no other choice, **Charles Xavier** psychically banished all mutants from Earth; only a handful with training were able to resist his telepathic command.

1__[PSYLOCKE]
2__[PENANCE]
3__[CAPTAIN AMERICA]
4__[DEADPOOL]
5__[QUICKSILVER]
6__[ROGUE]

1


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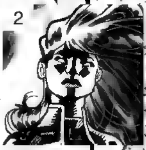

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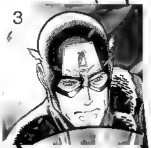

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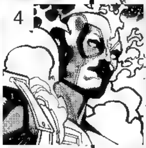

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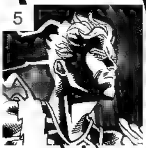

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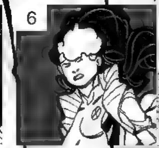
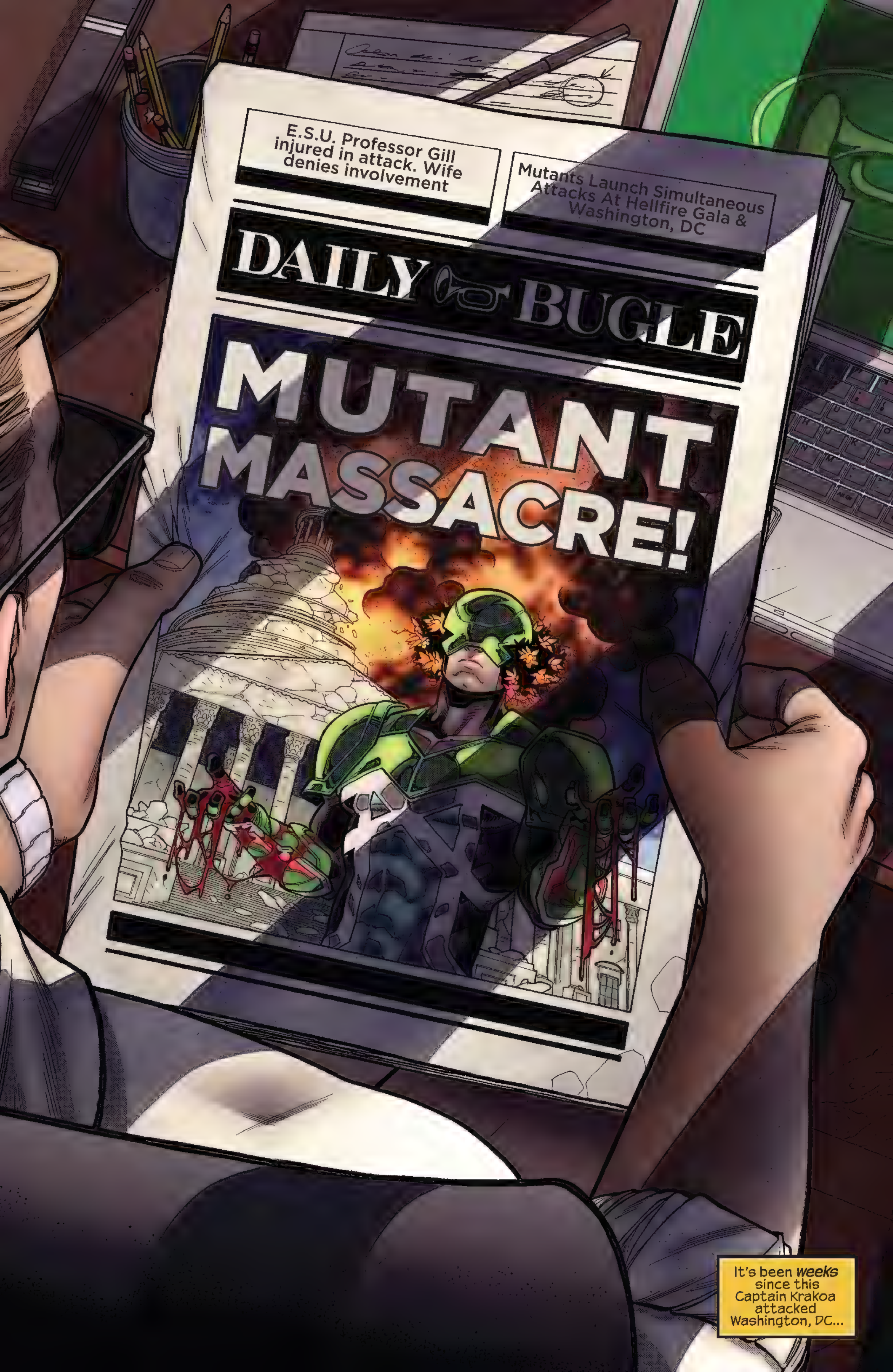
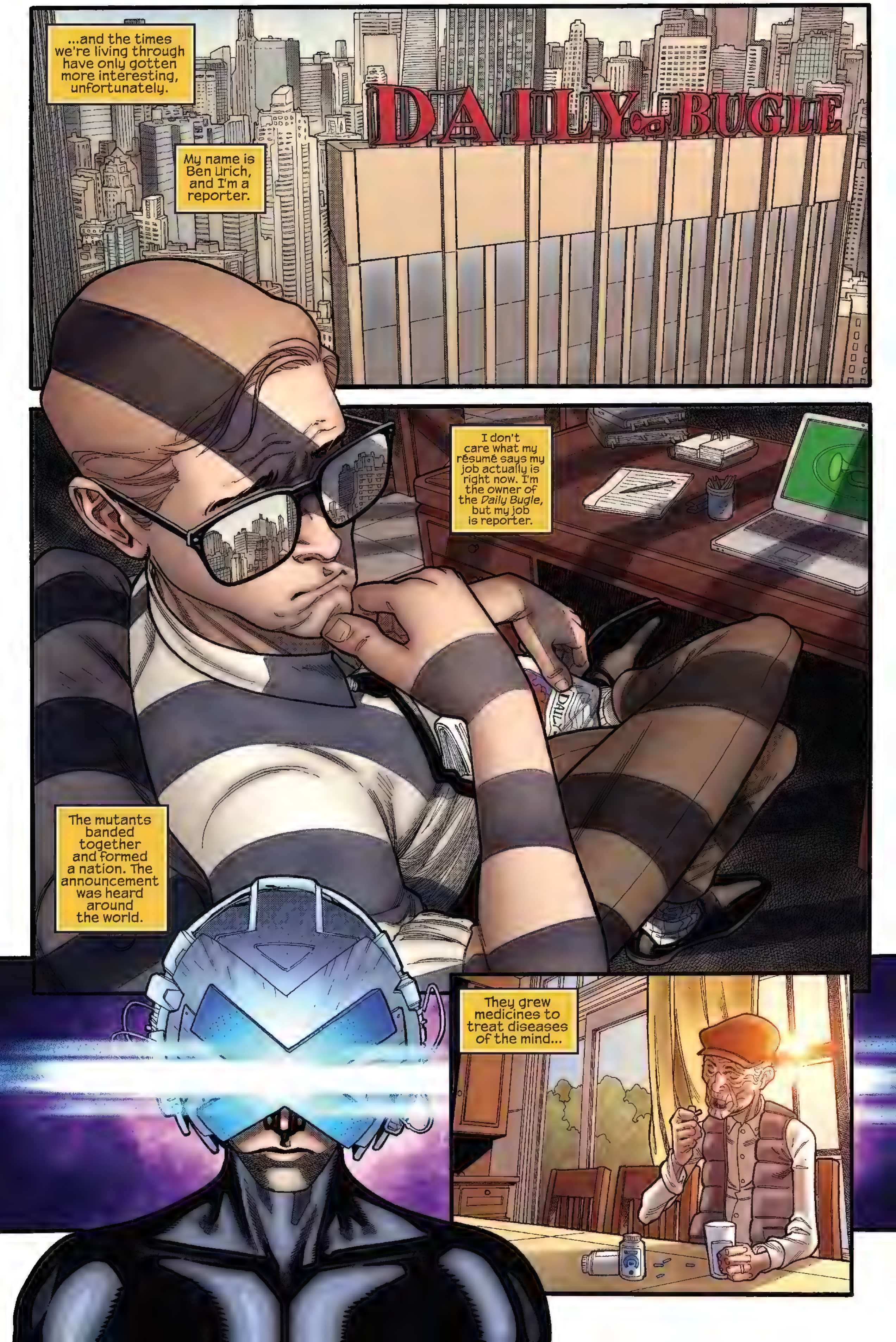
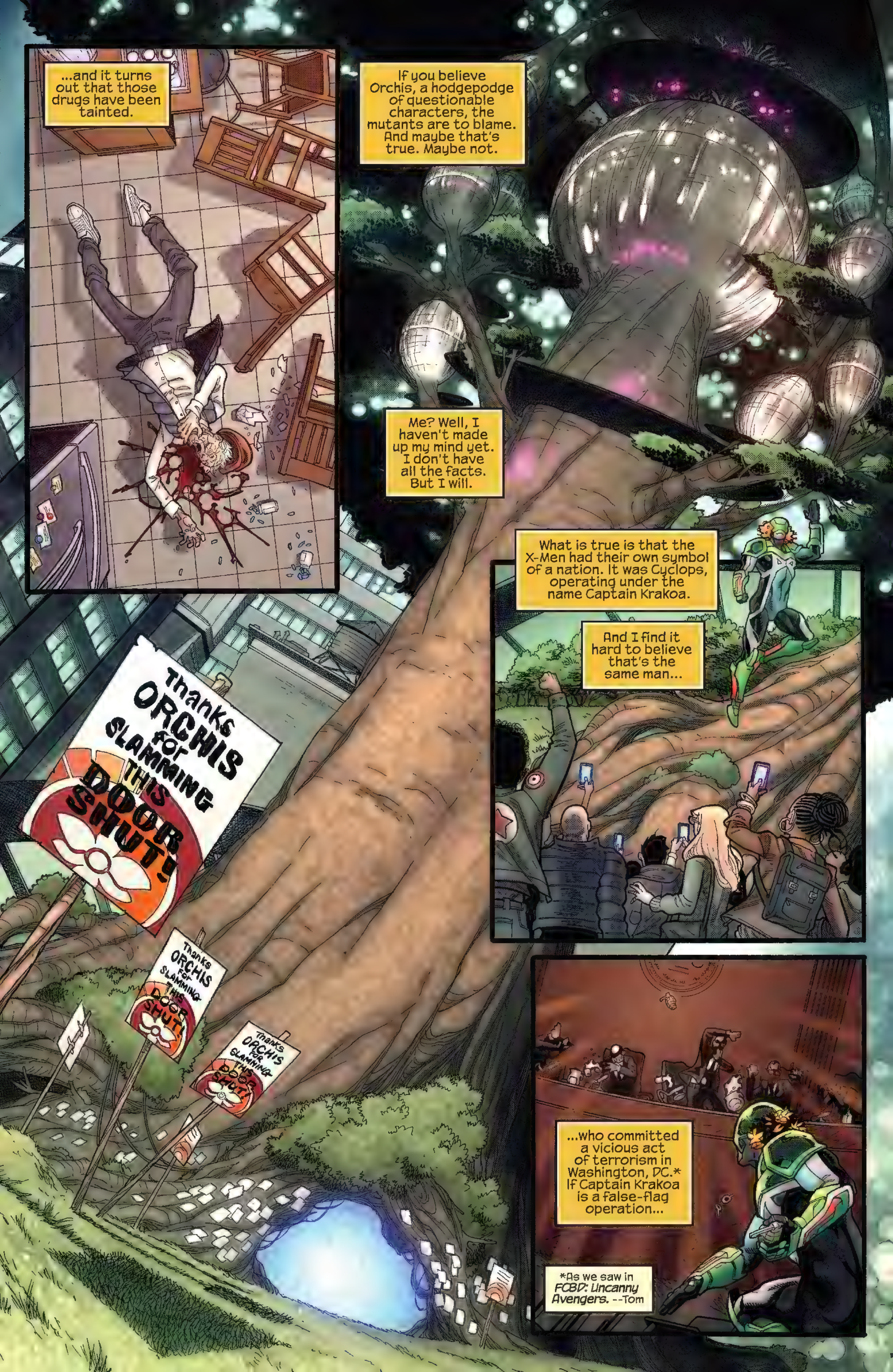


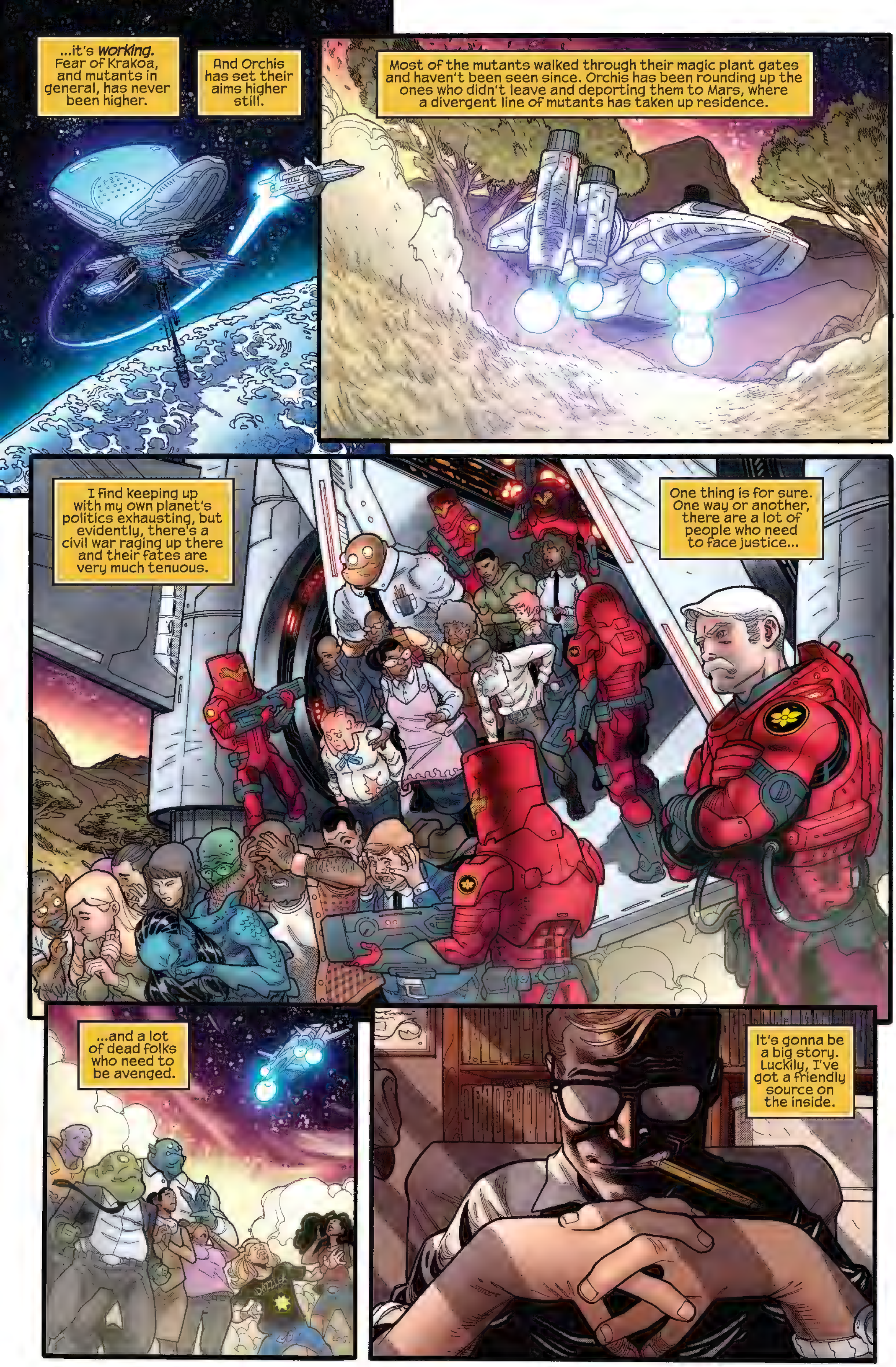
[avengers__01]
[01____x_men]

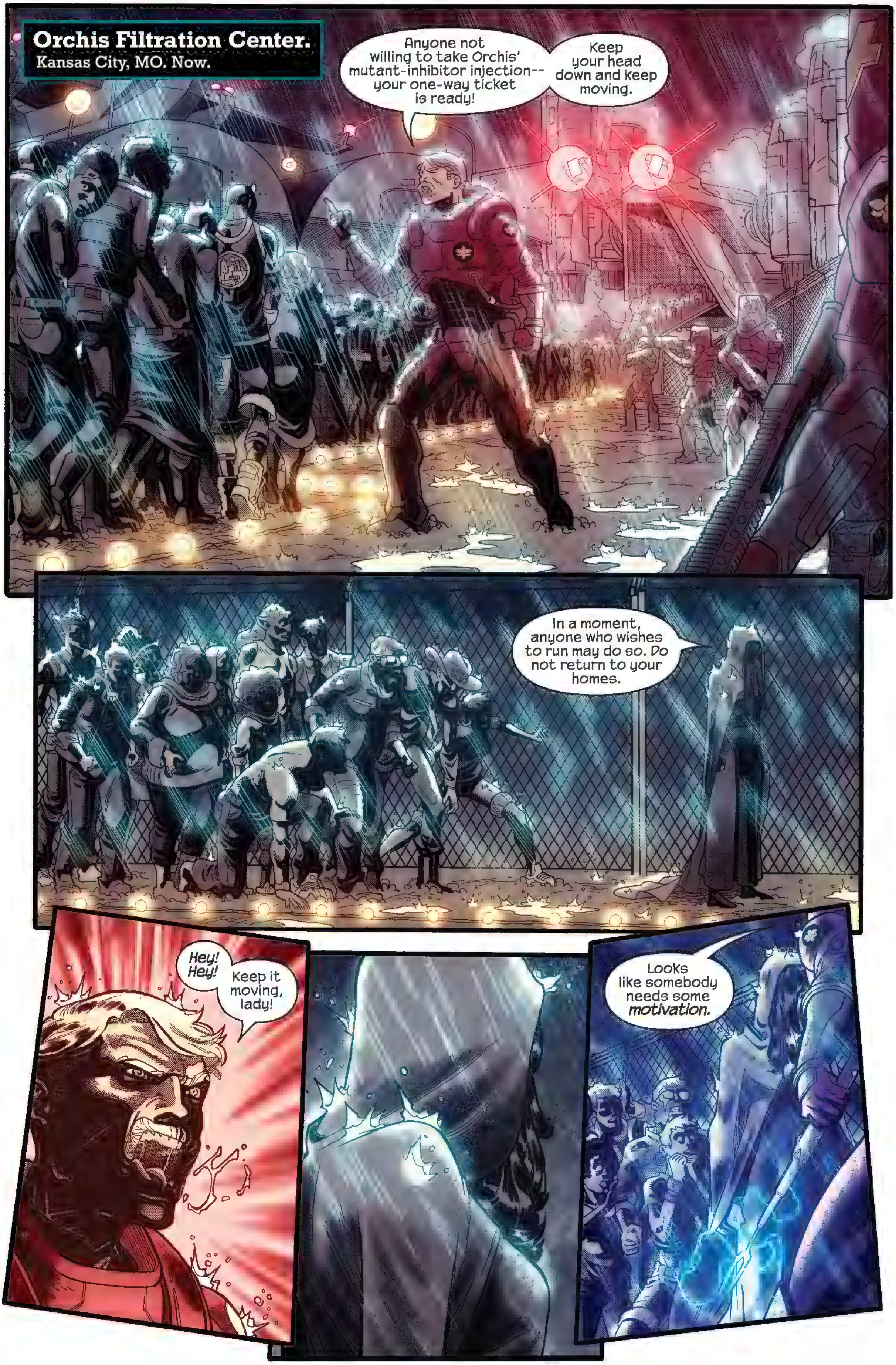
[fall__of]
[X]

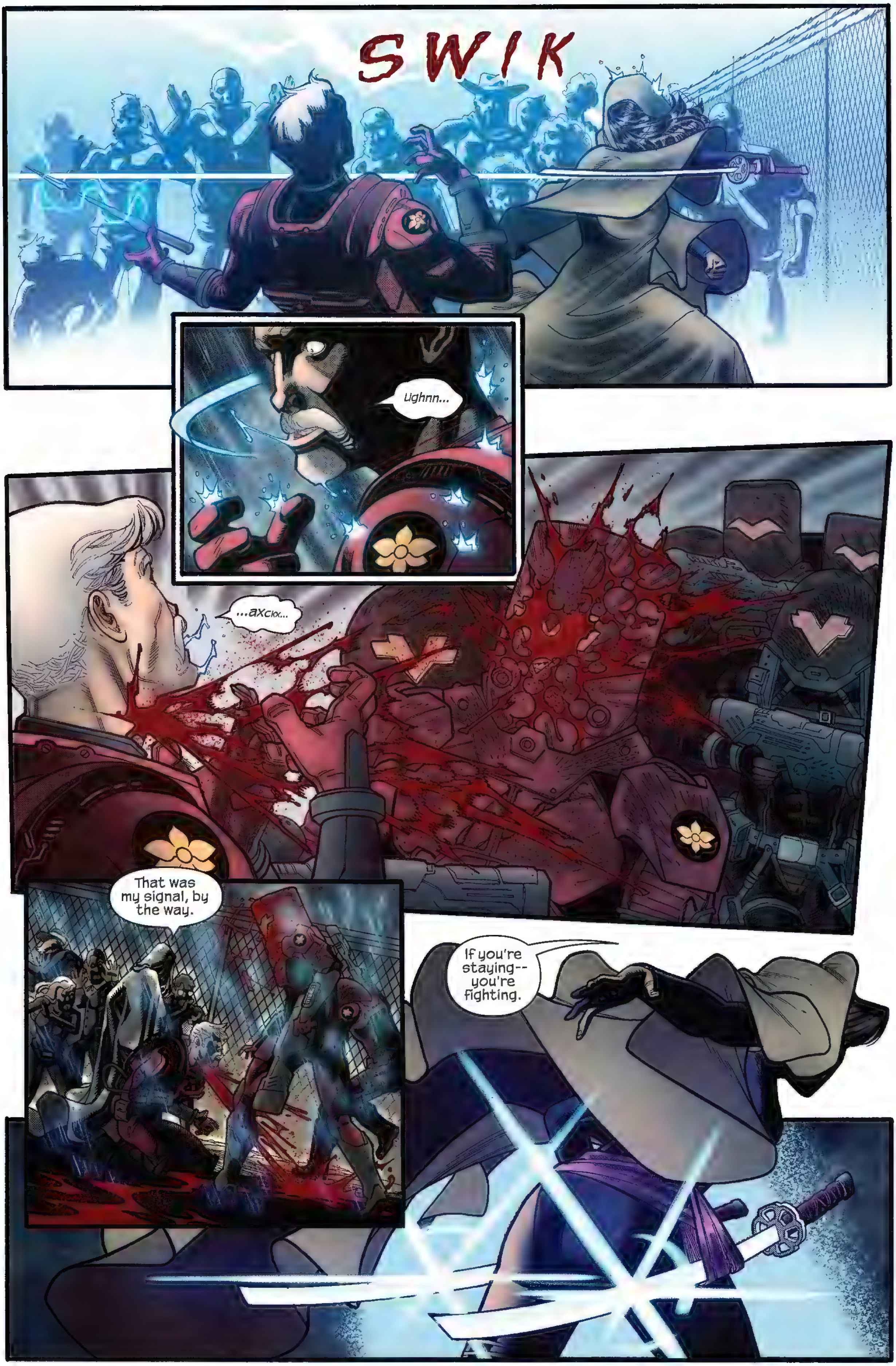

E.S.U. Professor Gill injured in attack. Wife denies involvement
Mutants Launch Simultaneous Attacks At Hellfire Gala & Washington, DC
DAILY BUGLE
MUTANT MASSACRE!
It's been *weeks* since this Captain Krakoa attacked Washington, DC...

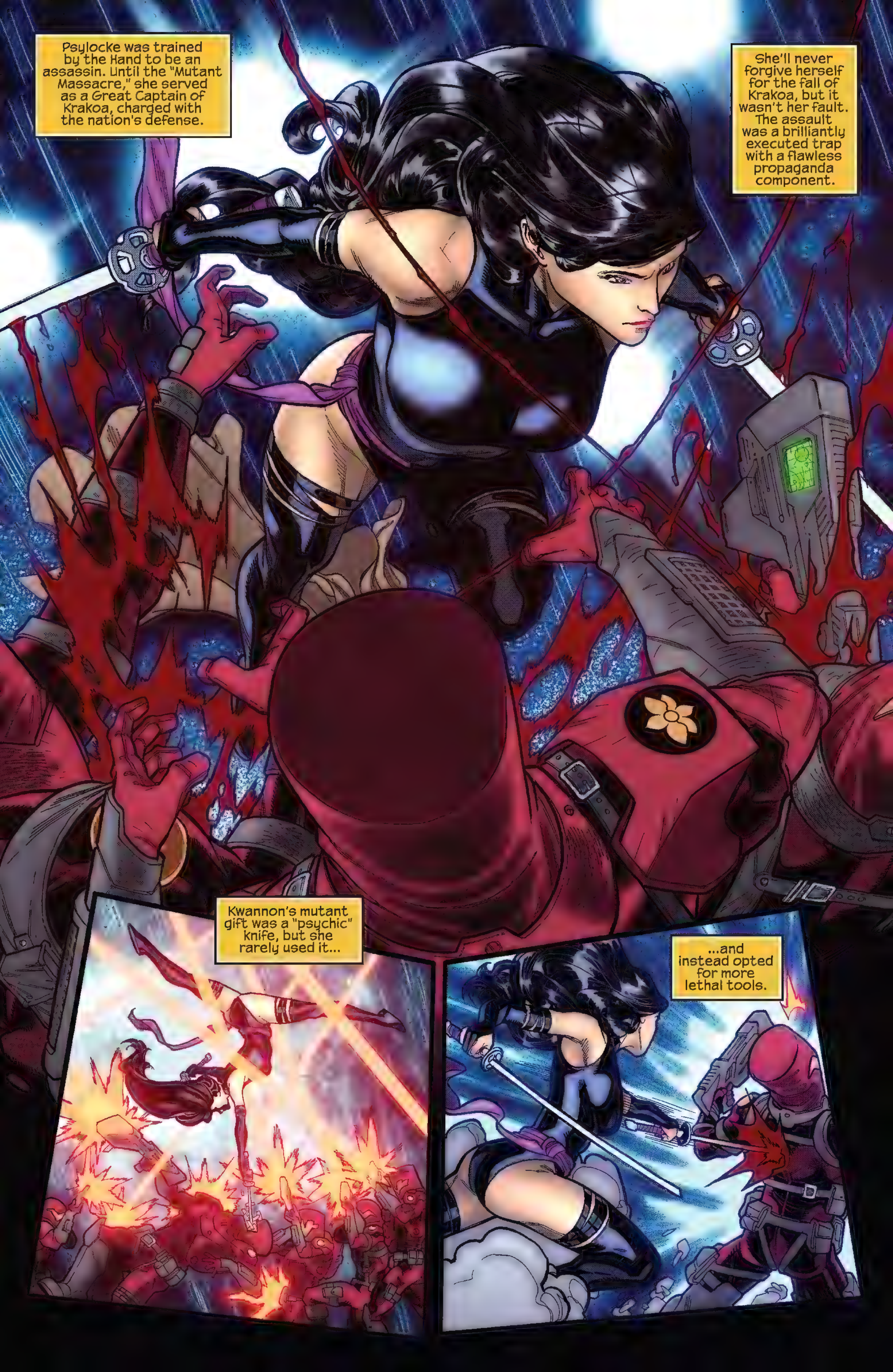

...and the times we're living through have only gotten more interesting, unfortunately.
DAILY BUGLE
My name is Ben Urich, and I'm a reporter.
I don't care what my résumé says my job actually is right now. I'm the owner of the *Daily Bugle*, but my job is reporter.
DAIL
The mutants banded together and formed a nation. The announcement was heard around the world.
They grew medicines to treat diseases of the mind...

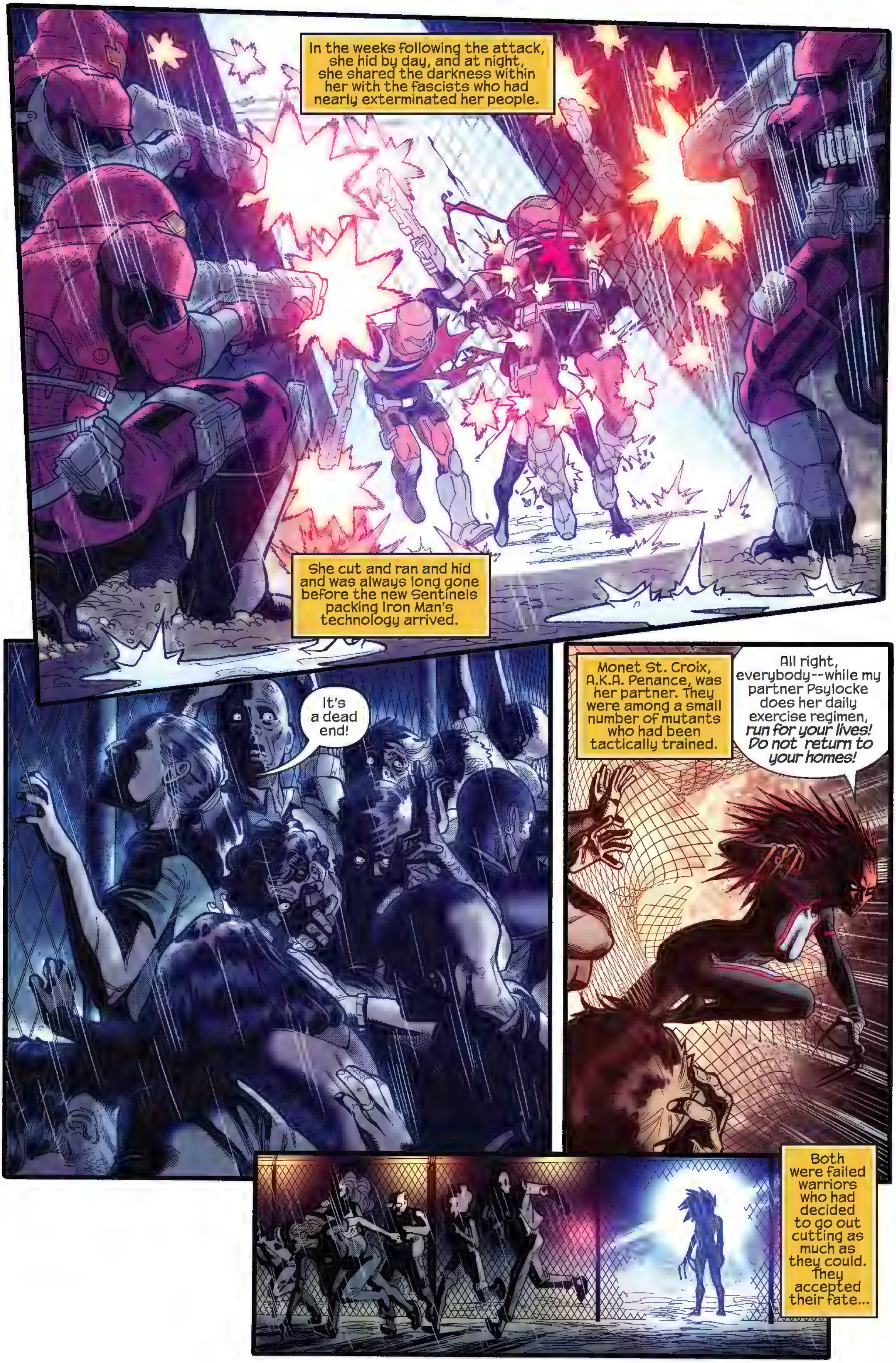

...and it turns out that those drugs have been tainted.
If you believe Orchis, a hodgepodge of questionable characters, the mutants are to blame. And maybe that's true. Maybe not.
Me? Well, I haven't made up my mind yet. I don't have all the facts. But I will.
Thanks ORCHIS for SLAMMING THIS DOOR SHUT!
Thanks ORCHIS for SLAMMING THIS DOOR SHUT!
Thanks ORCHIS for SLAMMING THIS DOOR SHUT!
What is true is that the X-Men had their own symbol of a nation. It was Cyclops, operating under the name Captain Krakoa.
And I find it hard to believe that's the same man...
...who committed a vicious act of terrorism in Washington, DC.* If Captain Krakoa is a false-flag operation...
*As we saw in *FCBD: Uncanny Avengers.* --Tom

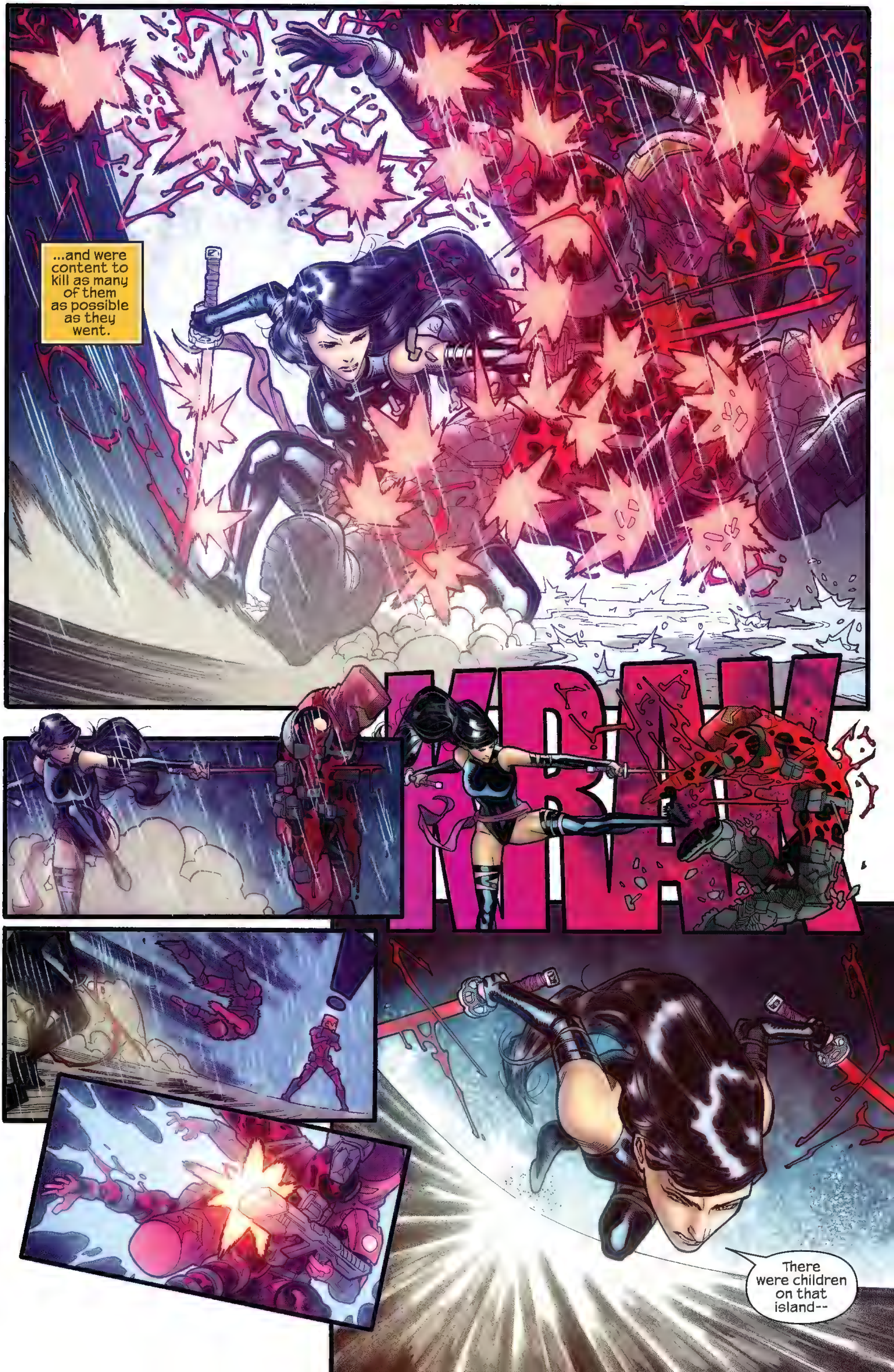

...it's *working.* Fear of Krakoa, and mutants in general, has never been higher.
And Orchis has set their aims higher still.
Most of the mutants walked through their magic plant gates and haven't been seen since. Orchis has been rounding up the ones who didn't leave and deporting them to Mars, where a divergent line of mutants has taken up residence.
I find keeping up with my own planet's politics exhausting, but evidently, there's a civil war raging up there and their fates are very much tenuous.
One thing is for sure. One way or another, there are a lot of people who need to face justice...
...and a lot of dead folks who need to be avenged.
DAZZLER
It's gonna be a big story. Luckily, I've got a friendly source on the inside.

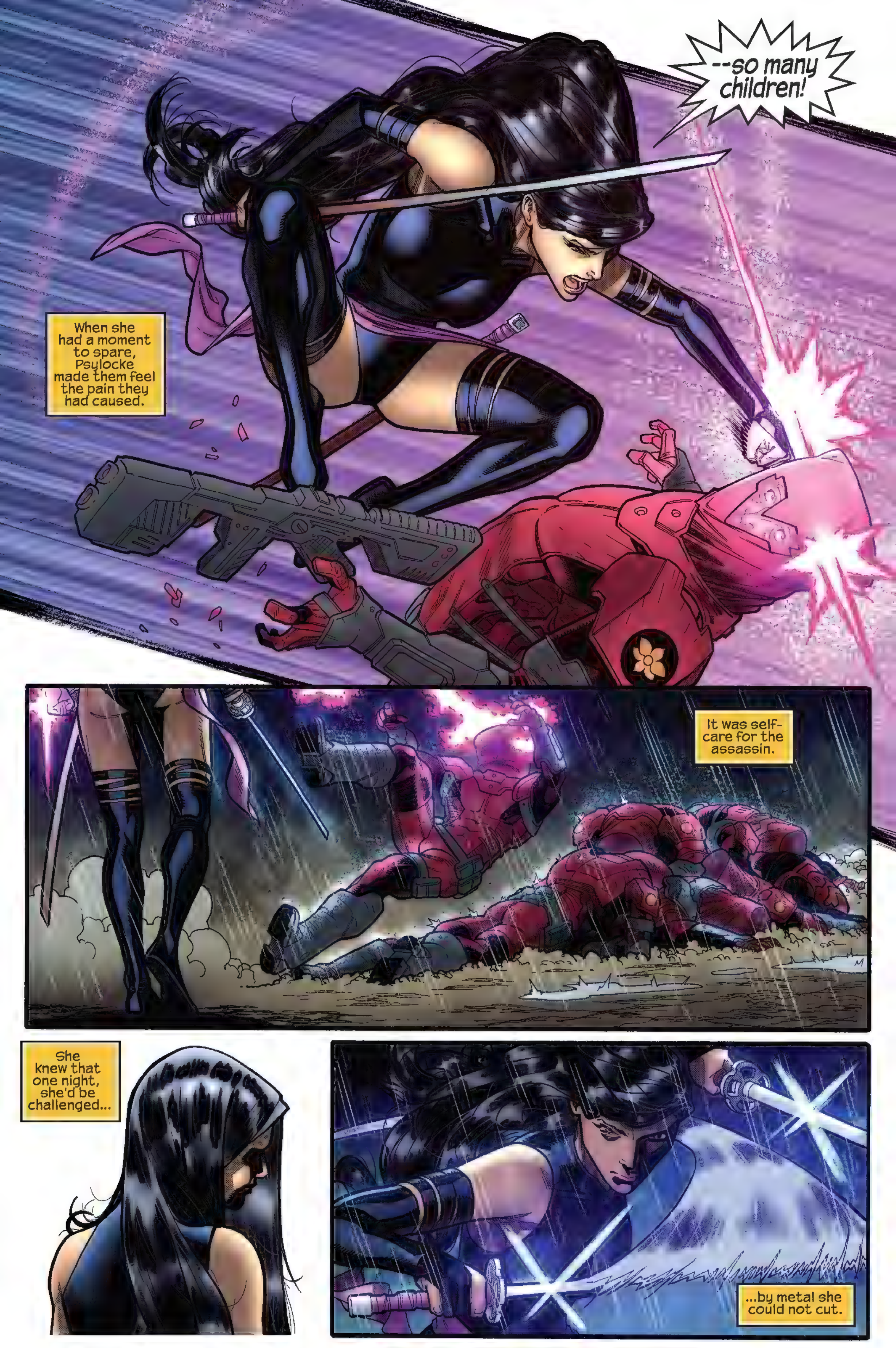

Orchis Filtration Center.
Kansas City, MO. Now.
Anyone not willing to take Orchis' mutant-inhibitor injection-- your one-way ticket is ready!
Keep your head down and keep moving.
In a moment, anyone who wishes to run may do so. Do not return to your homes.
Hey! Hey!
Keep it moving, lady!
Looks like somebody needs some *motivation.*

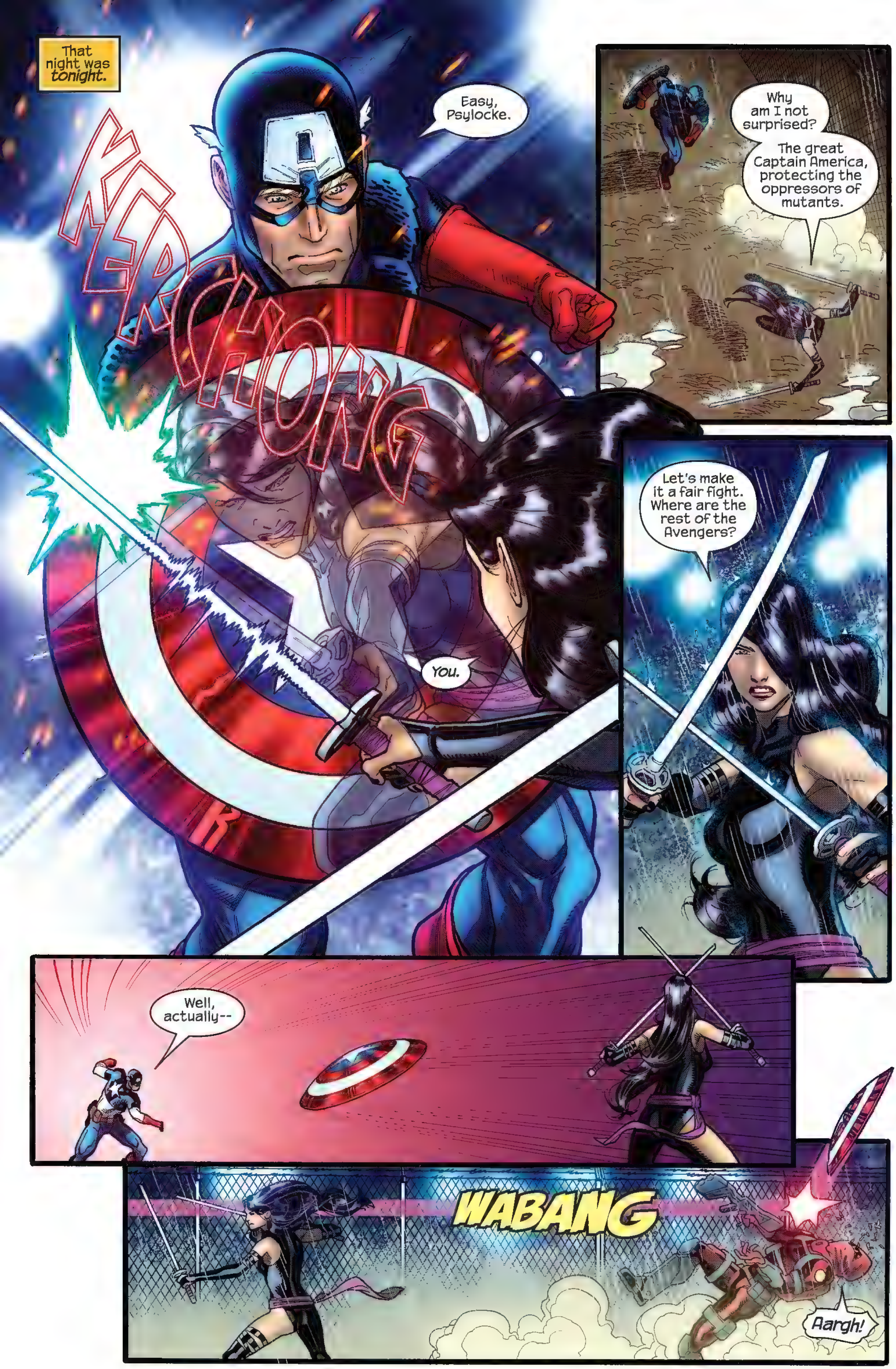

SWIK
Ughnn...
...axckx...
That was my signal, by the way.
If you're staying-- you're fighting.

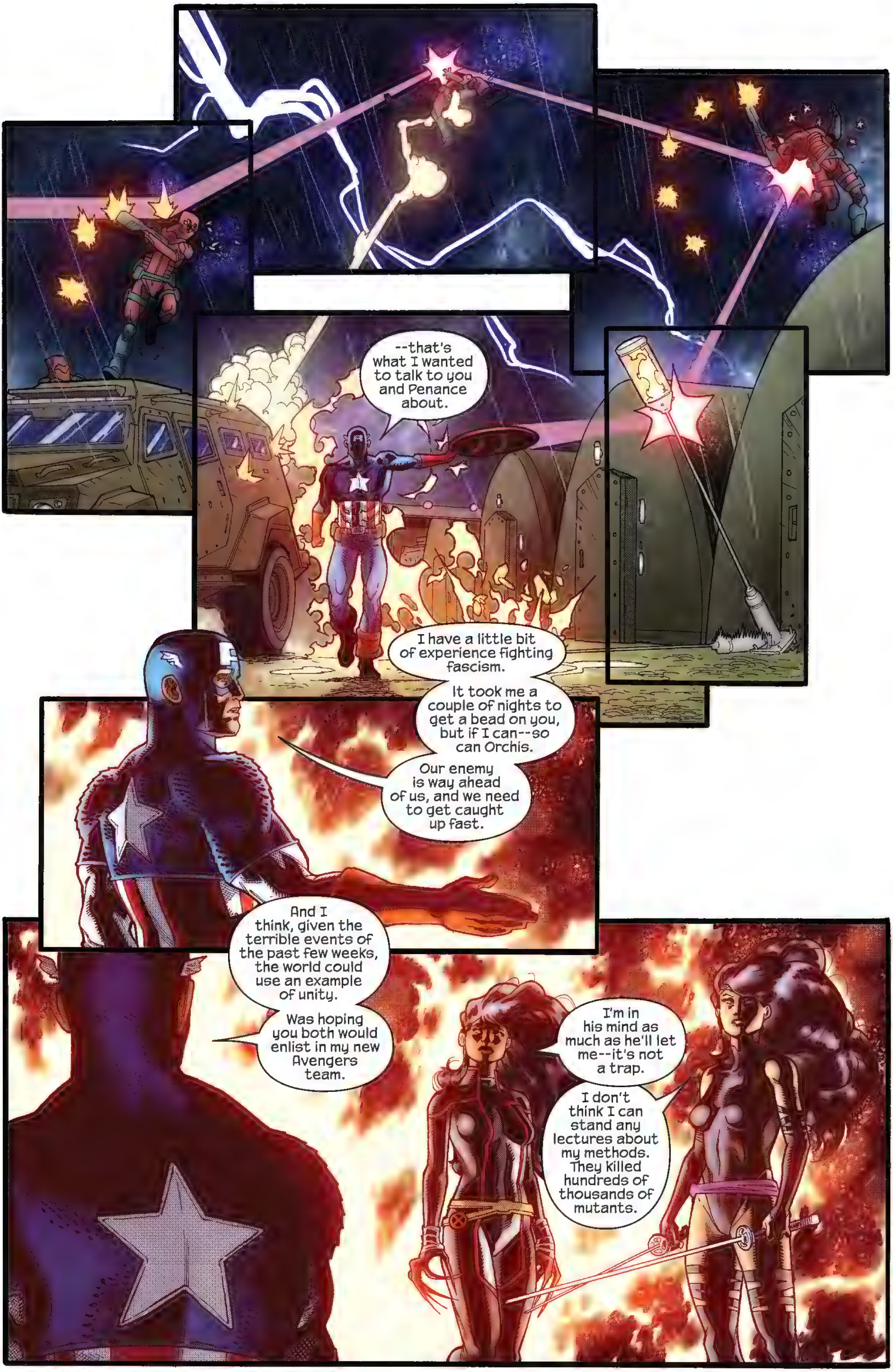

Psylocke was trained by the Hand to be an assassin. Until the "Mutant Massacre," she served as a Great Captain of Krakoa, charged with the nation's defense.
She'll never forgive herself for the fall of Krakoa, but it wasn't her fault. The assault was a brilliantly executed trap with a flawless propaganda component.
Kwannon's mutant gift was a "psychic" knife, but she rarely used it...
...and instead opted for more lethal tools.

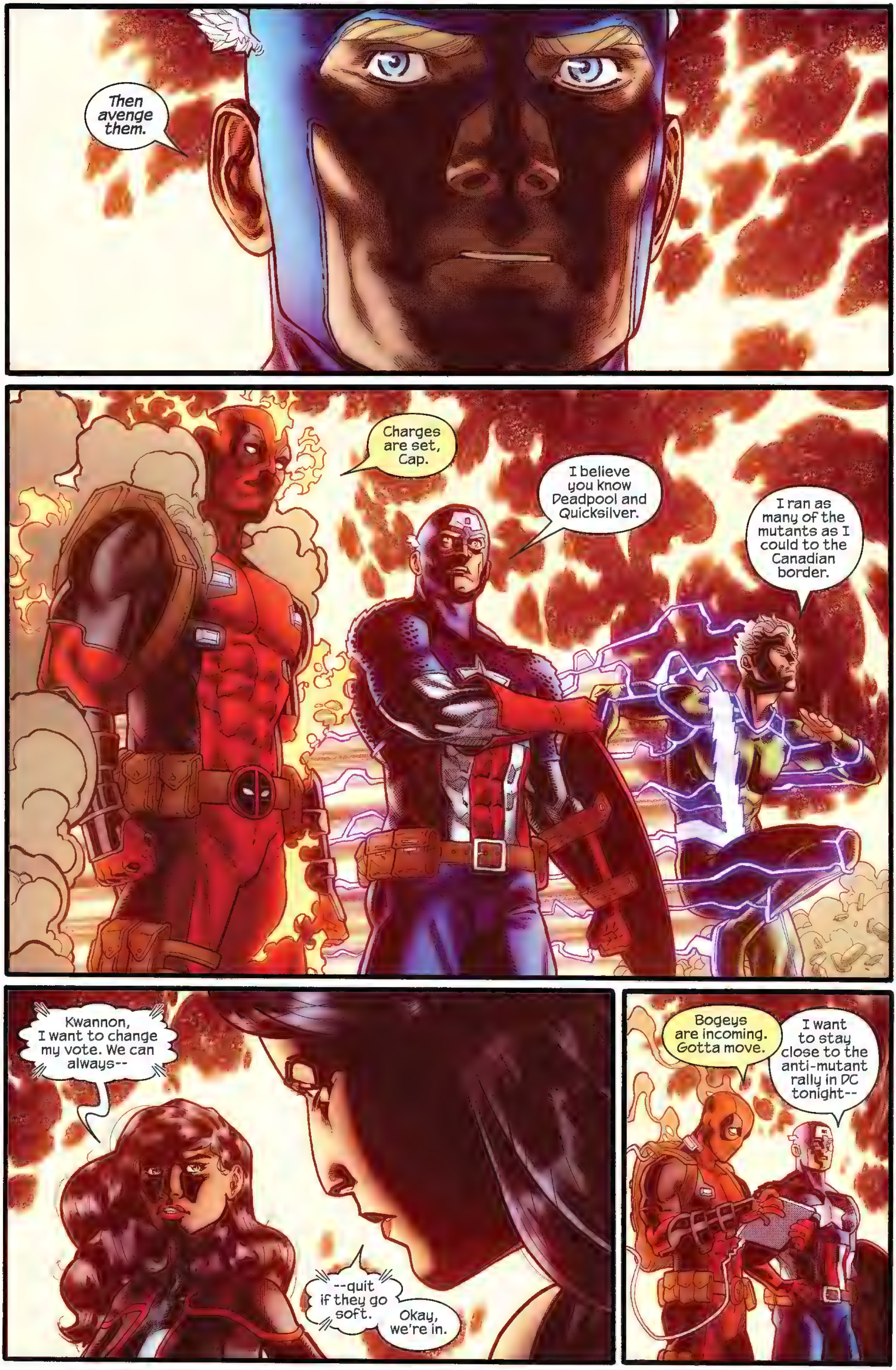

In the weeks following the attack, she hid by day, and at night, she shared the darkness within her with the fascists who had nearly exterminated her people.
She cut and ran and hid and was always long gone before the new Sentinels packing Iron Man's technology arrived.
It's a dead end!
Monet St. Croix, A.K.A. Penance, was her partner. They were among a small number of mutants who had been tactically trained.
All right, everybody--while my partner Psylocke does her daily exercise regimen, *run for your lives! Do not return to your homes!*
Both were failed warriors who had decided to go out cutting as much as they could. They accepted their fate...

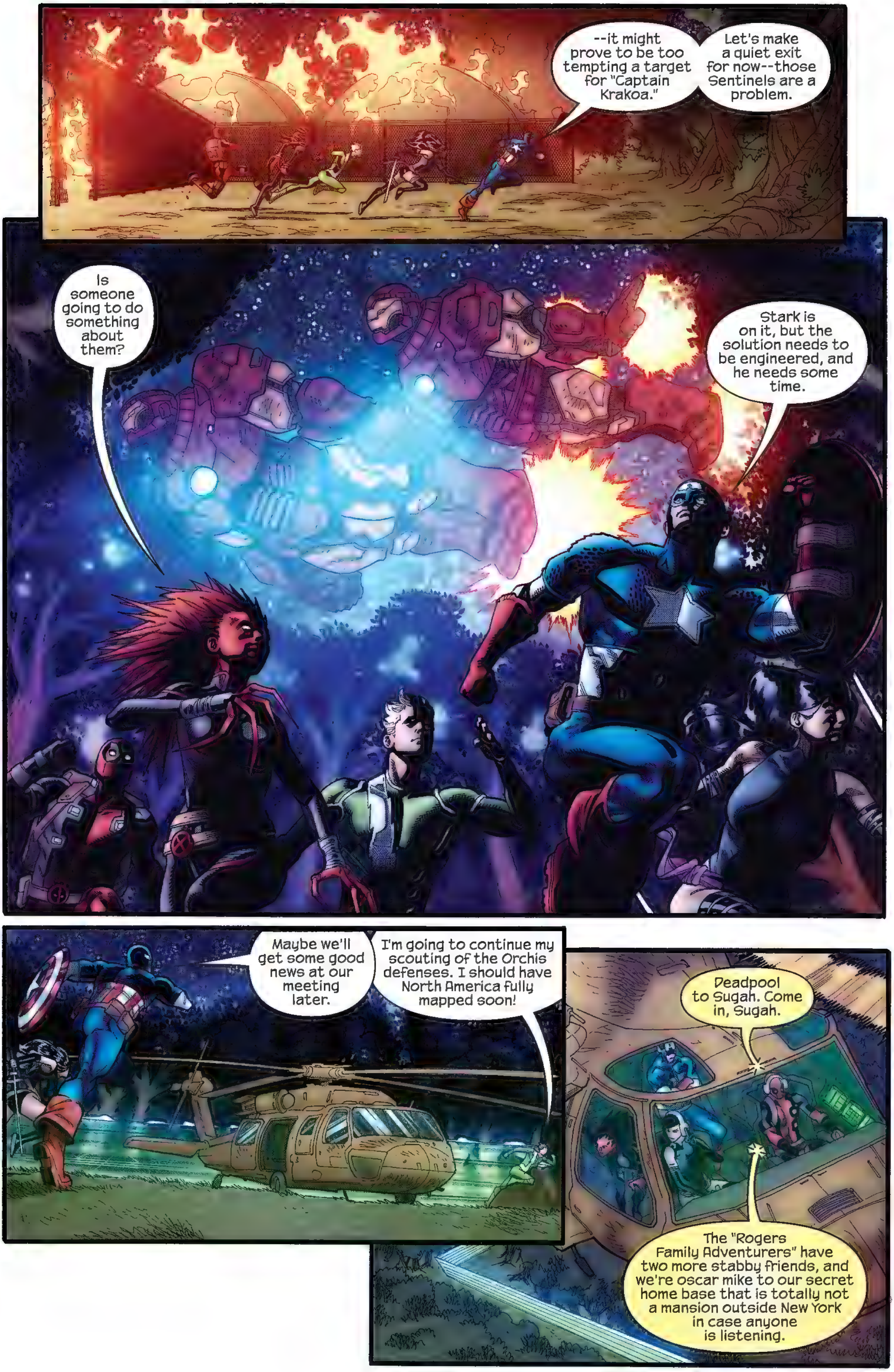

...and were content to kill as many of them as possible as they went.
KRAK
There were children on that island--

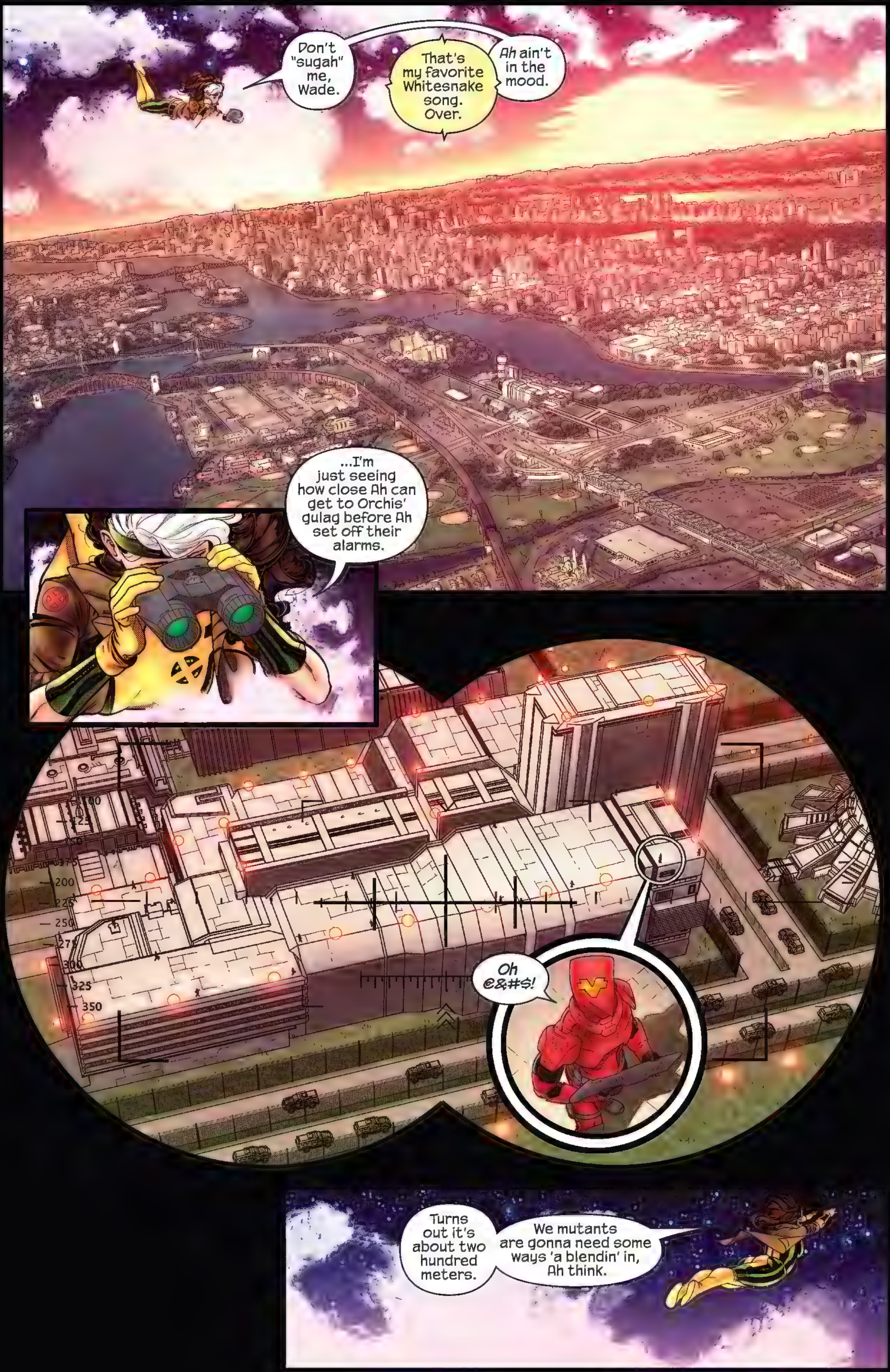

--so many children!
When she had a moment to spare, Psylocke made them feel the pain they had caused.
It was self-care for the assassin.
She knew that one night, she'd be challenged...
...by metal she could not cut.

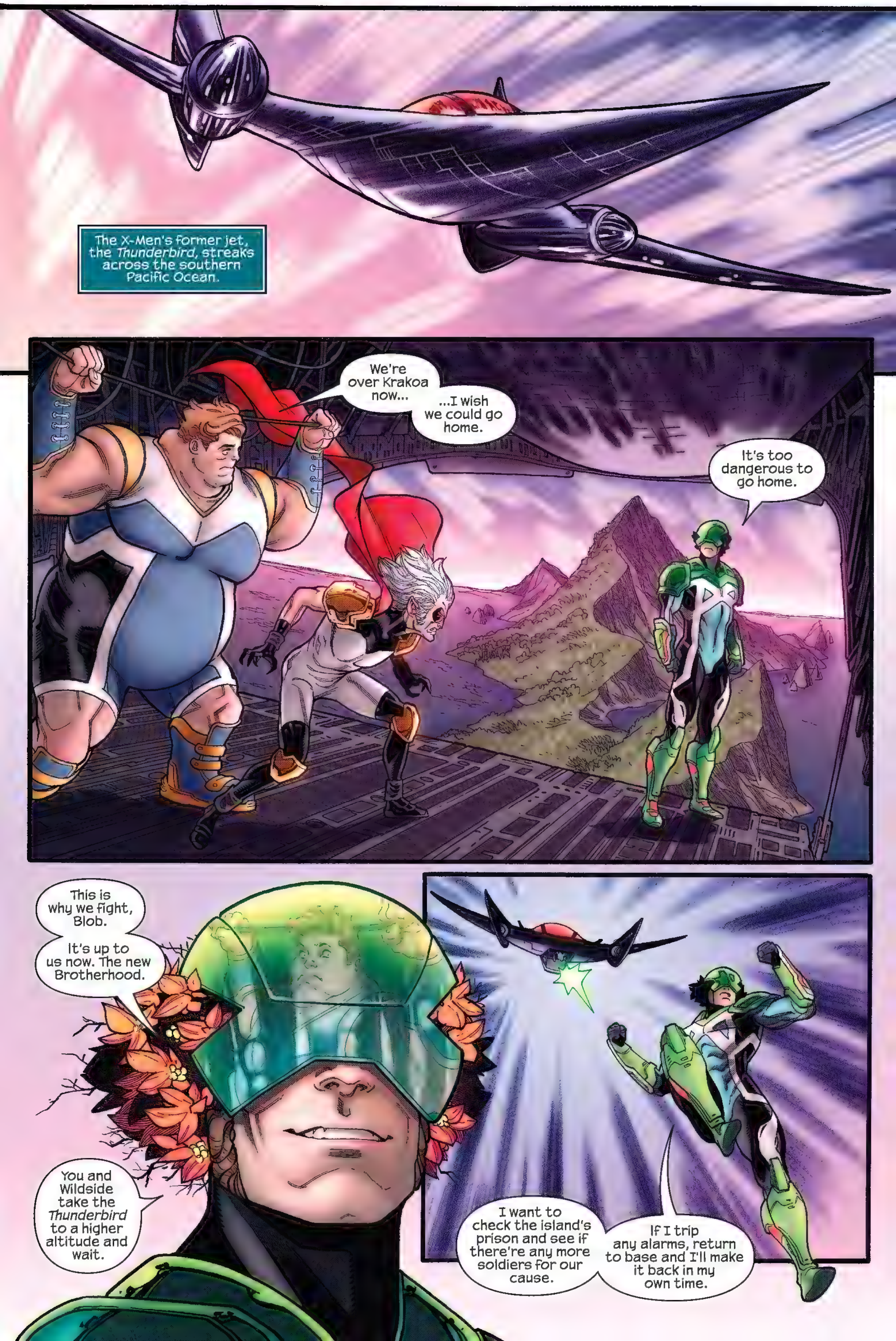

That night was tonight.
Easy, Psylocke.
KERCHONG
You.
Why am I not surprised?
The great Captain America, protecting the oppressors of mutants.
Let's make it a fair fight. Where are the rest of the Avengers?
Well, actually--
WABANG
Aargh!

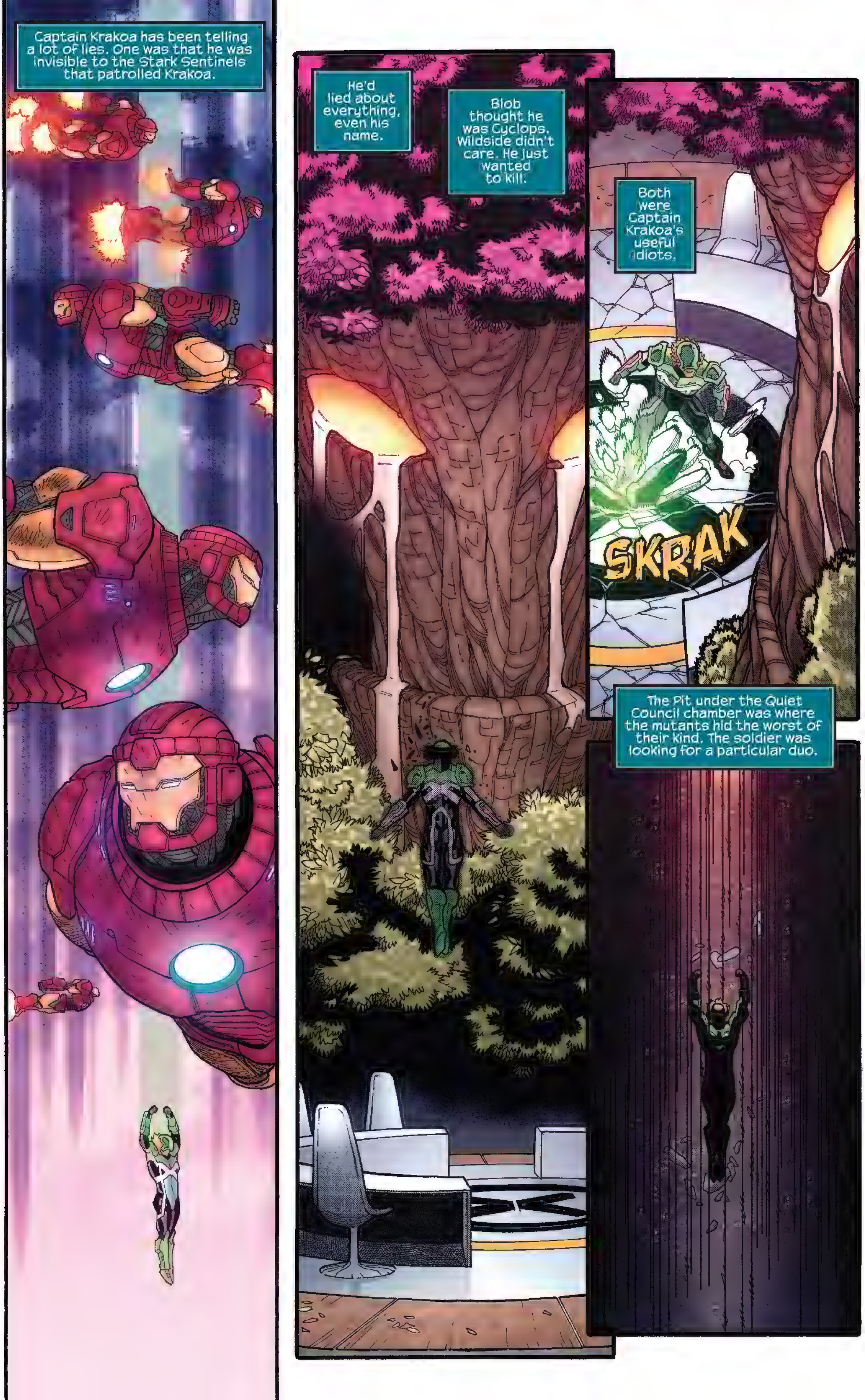

--that's what I wanted to talk to you and Penance about.
I have a little bit of experience fighting fascism.
It took me a couple of nights to get a bead on you, but if I can--so can Orchis.
Our enemy is way ahead of us, and we need to get caught up fast.
And I think, given the terrible events of the past few weeks, the world could use an example of unity.
Was hoping you both would enlist in my new Avengers team.
I'm in his mind as much as he'll let me--it's not a trap.
I don't think I can stand any lectures about my methods. They killed hundreds of thousands of mutants.

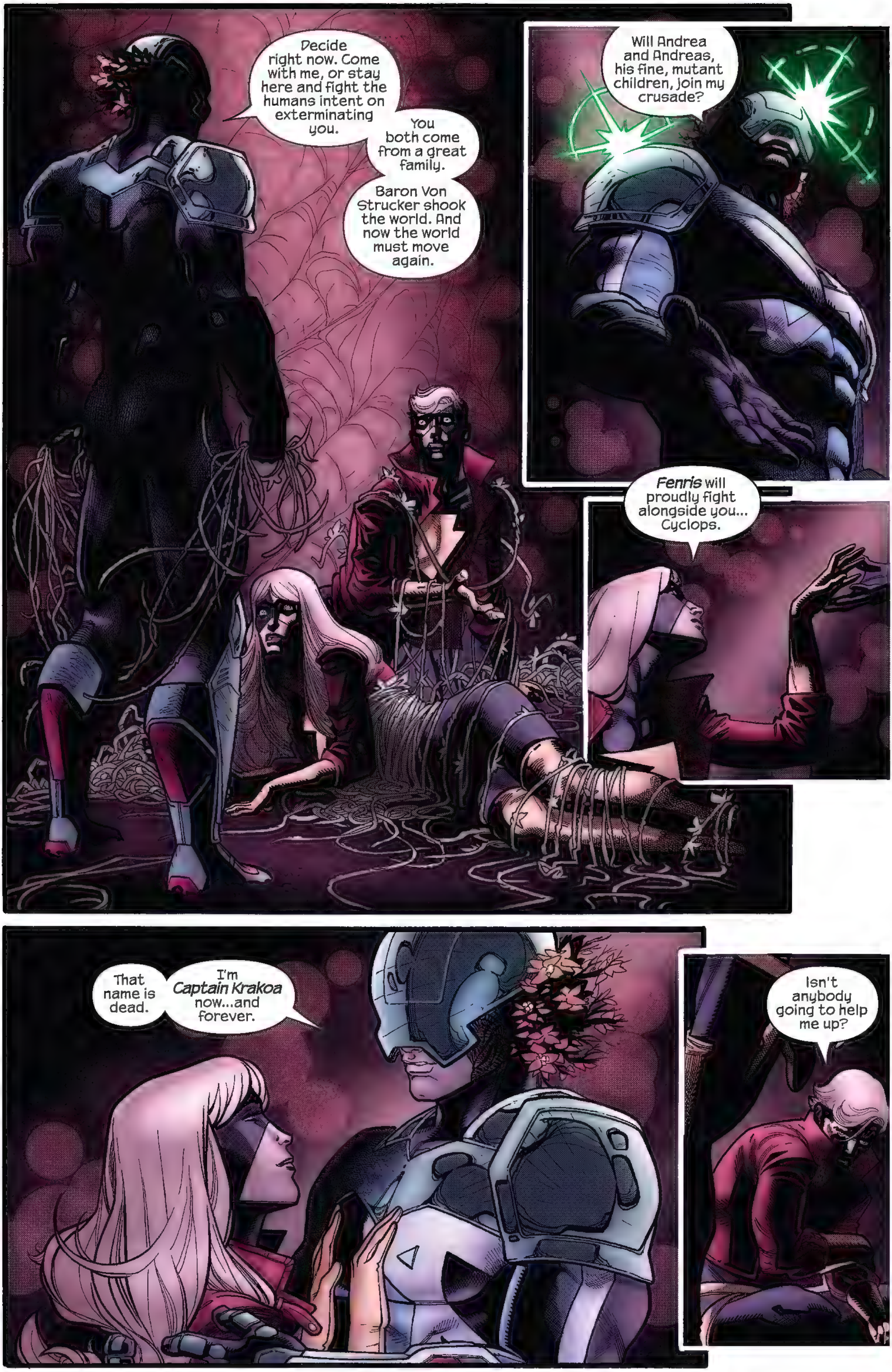

Then avenge them.
Charges are set, Cap.
I believe you know Deadpool and Quicksilver.
I ran as many of the mutants as I could to the Canadian border.
Kwannon, I want to change my vote. We can always--
--quit if they go soft.
Okay, we're in.
Bogeys are incoming. Gotta move.
I want to stay close to the anti-mutant rally in DC tonight--

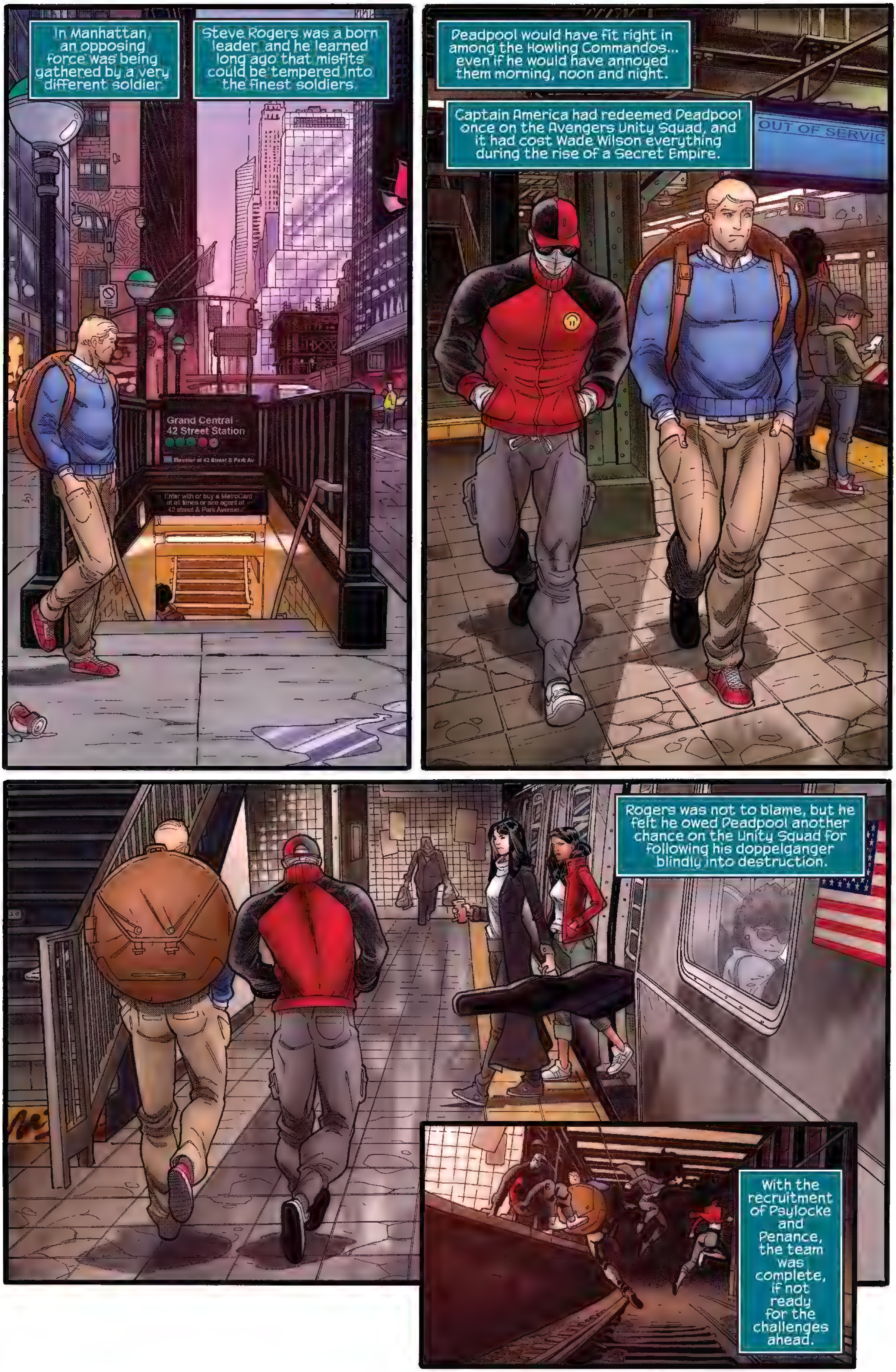

--it might prove to be too tempting a target for "Captain Krakoa."
Let's make a quiet exit for now--those Sentinels are a problem.
Is someone going to do something about them?
Stark is on it, but the solution needs to be engineered, and he needs some time.
Maybe we'll get some good news at our meeting later.
I'm going to continue my scouting of the Orchis defenses. I should have North America fully mapped soon!
Deadpool to Sugah. Come in, Sugah.
The "Rogers Family Adventurers" have two more stabby friends, and we're oscar mike to our secret home base that is totally not a mansion outside New York in case anyone is listening.

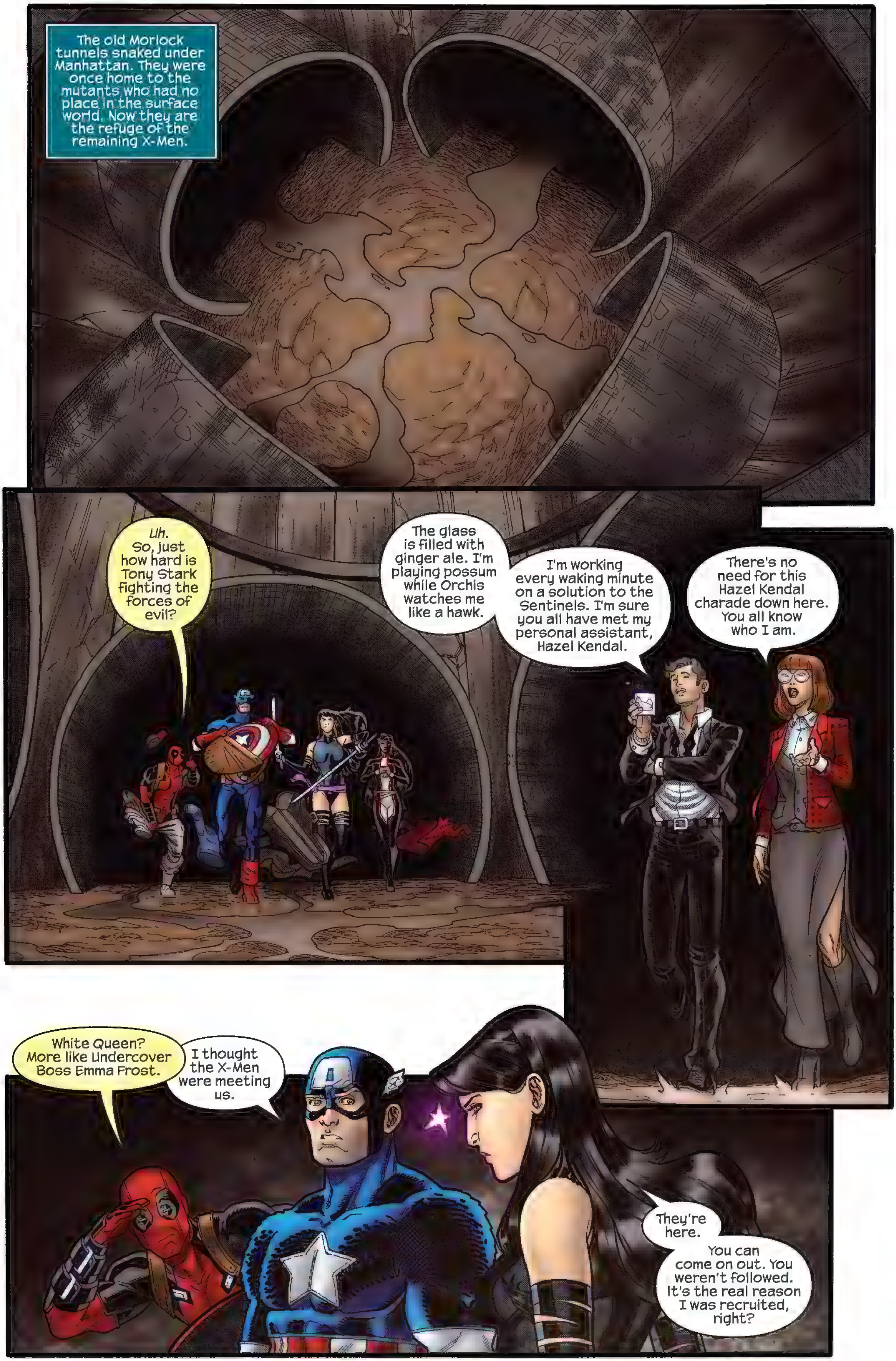

Don't "sugah" me, Wade.
That's my favorite Whitesnake song. Over.
Ah ain't in the mood.
...I'm just seeing how close Ah can get to Orchis' gulag before Ah set off their alarms.
200
250
325
350
Oh @&#$!
Turns out it's about two hundred meters.
We mutants are gonna need some ways 'a blendin' in, Ah think.

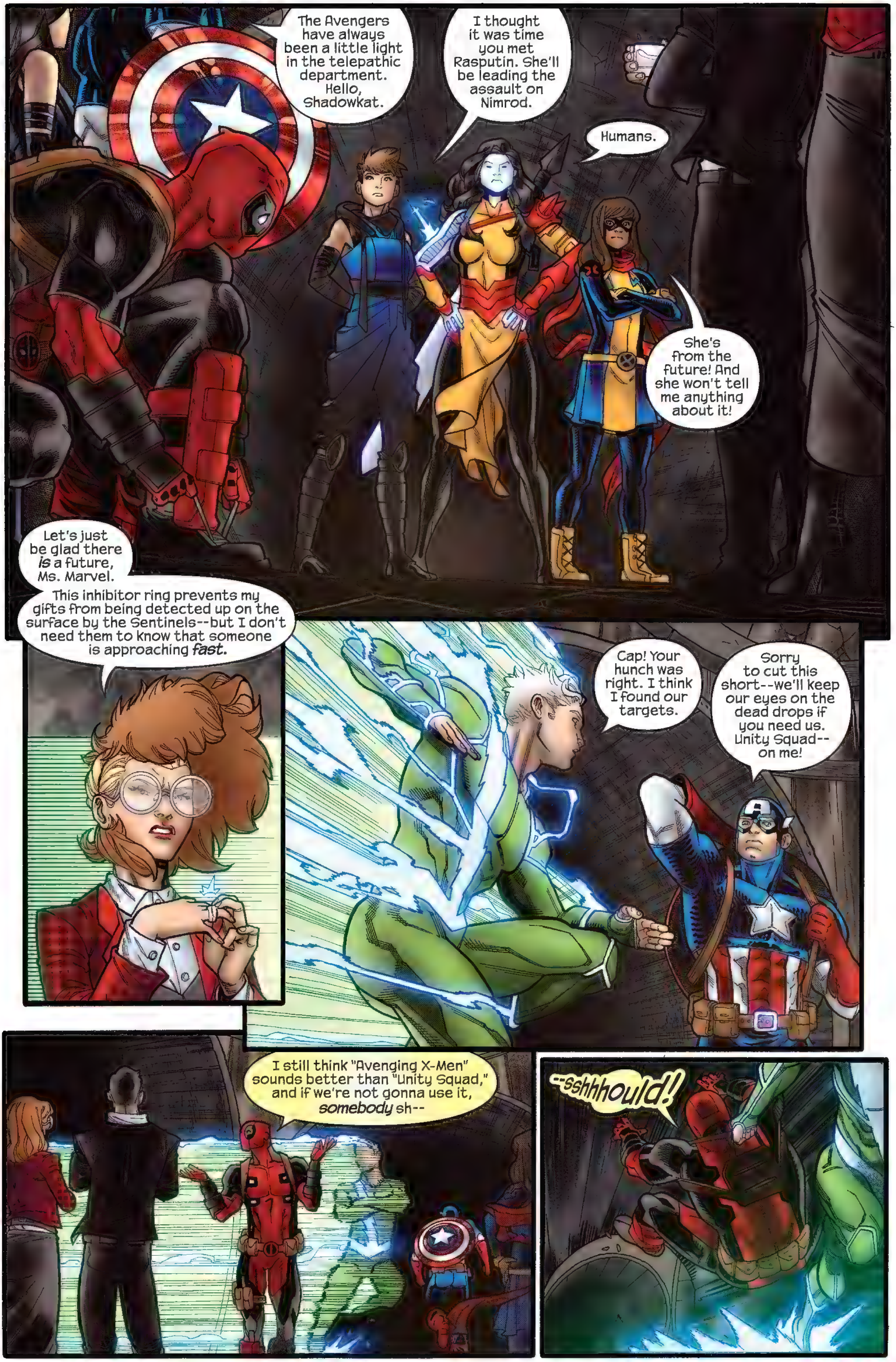

The X-Men's former jet, the *Thunderbird*, streaks across the southern Pacific Ocean.
We're over Krakoa now...
...I wish we could go home.
It's too dangerous to go home.
This is why we fight, Blob.
It's up to us now. The new Brotherhood.
You and Wildside take the *Thunderbird* to a higher altitude and wait.
I want to check the island's prison and see if there're any more soldiers for our cause.
If I trip any alarms, return to base and I'll make it back in my own time.

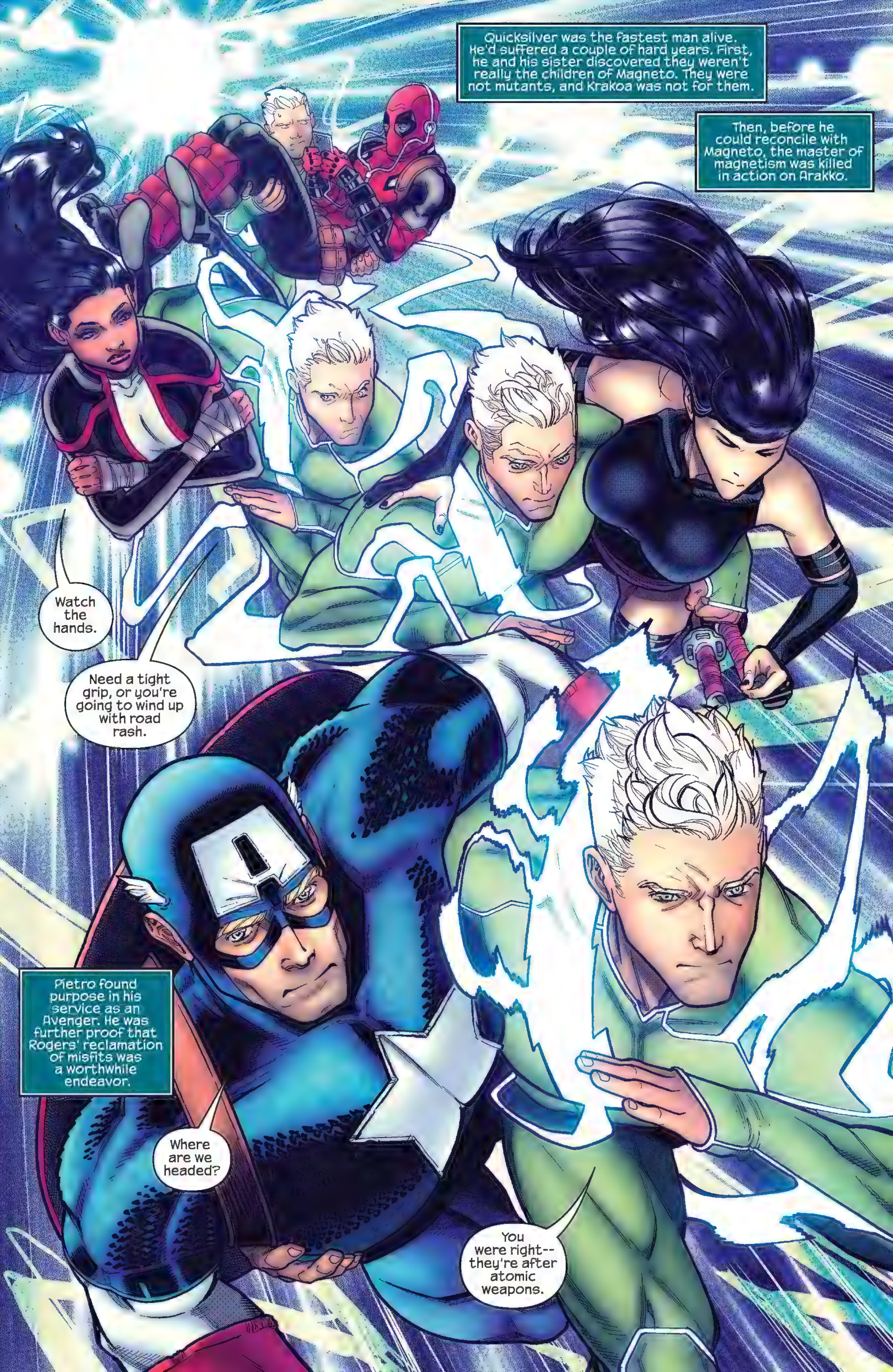

Captain Krakoa has been telling a lot of lies. One was that he was invisible to the Stark Sentinels that patrolled Krakoa.
He'd lied about everything, even his name.
Blob thought he was Cyclops. Wildside didn't care. He just wanted to kill.
Both were Captain Krakoa's useful idiots.
SKRAK
The Pit under the Quiet Council chamber was where the mutants hid the worst of their kind. The soldier was looking for a particular duo.

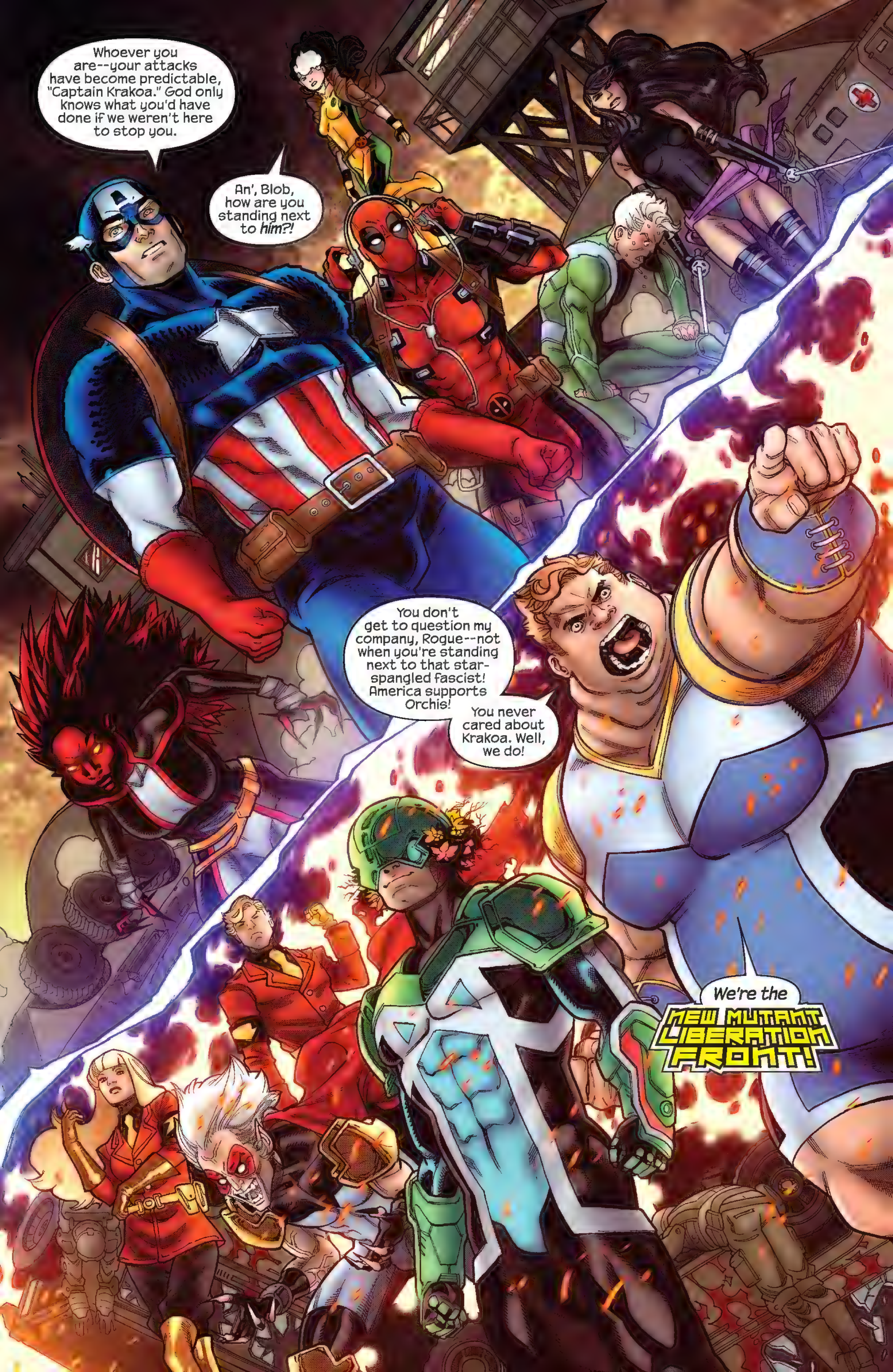

Decide right now. Come with me, or stay here and fight the humans intent on exterminating you.
You both come from a great family.
Baron Von Strucker shook the world. And now the world must move again.
Will Andrea and Andreas, his fine, mutant children, join my crusade?
Fenris will proudly fight alongside you... Cyclops.
That name is dead.
I'm *Captain Krakoa* now...and forever.
Isn't anybody going to help me up?

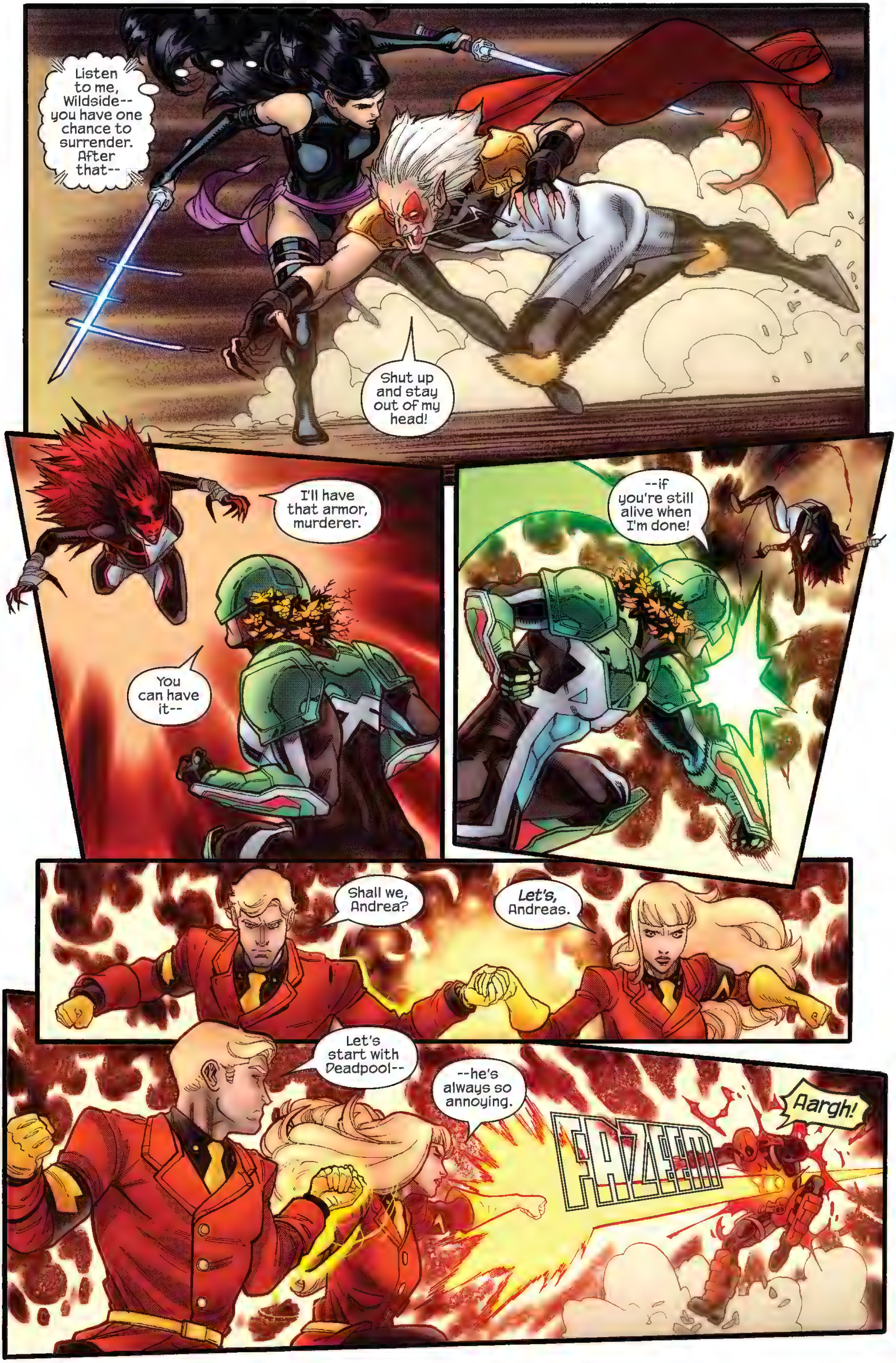

In Manhattan, an opposing force was being gathered by a very different soldier.
Steve Rogers was a born leader, and he learned long ago that misfits could be tempered into the finest soldiers.
Grand Central 42 Street Station
Elevator at 42 Street & Park Av
Enter with or buy a MetroCard at all times or see agent at 42 street & Park Avenue
Deadpool would have fit right in among the Howling Commandos... even if he would have annoyed them morning, noon and night.
Captain America had redeemed Deadpool once on the Avengers Unity Squad, and it had cost Wade Wilson everything during the rise of a Secret Empire.
OUT OF SERVIC
Rogers was not to blame, but he felt he owed Deadpool another chance on the Unity Squad for following his doppelganger blindly into destruction.
With the recruitment of Psylocke and Penance, the team was complete, if not ready for the challenges ahead.

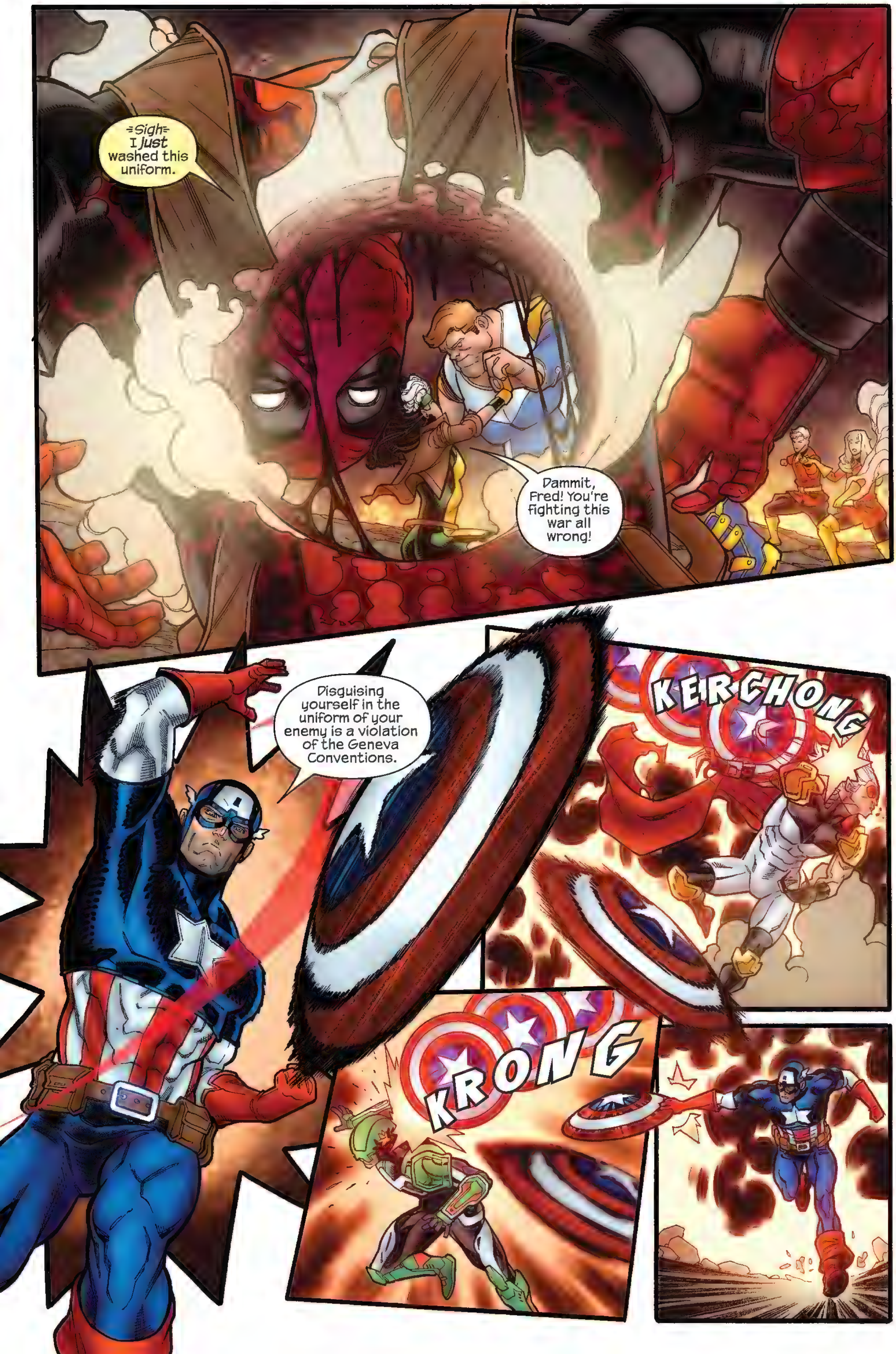

The old Morlock tunnels snaked under Manhattan. They were once home to the mutants who had no place in the surface world. Now they are the refuge of the remaining X-Men.
Uh. So, just how hard is Tony Stark fighting the forces of evil?
The glass is filled with ginger ale. I'm playing possum while Orchis watches me like a hawk.
I'm working every waking minute on a solution to the Sentinels. I'm sure you all have met my personal assistant, Hazel Kendal.
There's no need for this Hazel Kendal charade down here. You all know who I am.
White Queen? More like Undercover Boss Emma Frost.
I thought the X-Men were meeting us.
They're here.
You can come on out. You weren't followed. It's the real reason I was recruited, right?

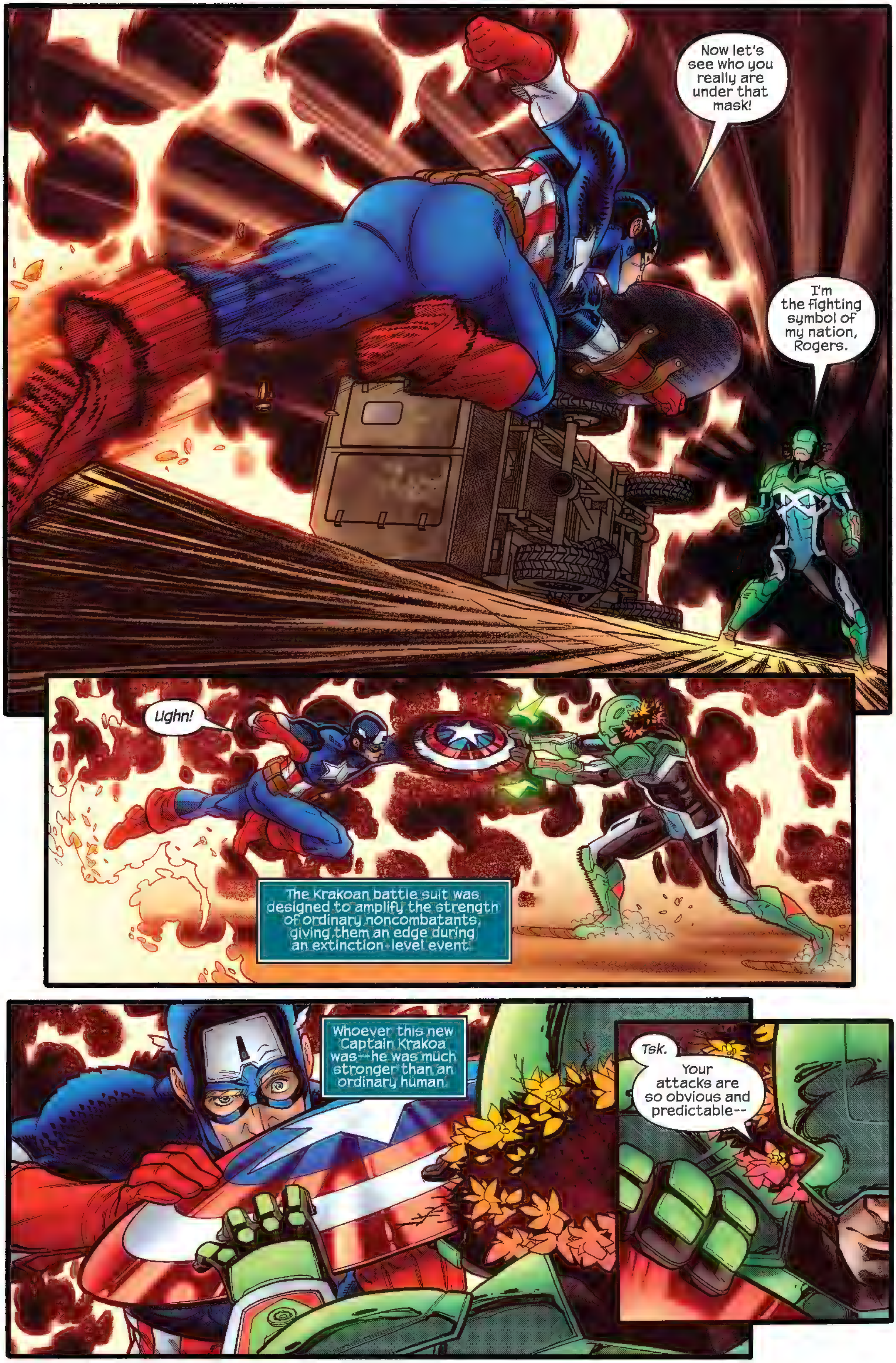

The Avengers have always been a little light in the telepathic department. Hello, Shadowkat.
I thought it was time you met Rasputin. She'll be leading the assault on Nimrod.
Humans.
She's from the future! And she won't tell me anything about it!
Let's just be glad there *is* a future, Ms. Marvel.
This inhibitor ring prevents my gifts from being detected up on the surface by the Sentinels--but I don't need them to know that someone is approaching *fast*.
Cap! Your hunch was right. I think I found our targets.
Sorry to cut this short--we'll keep our eyes on the dead drops if you need us. Unity Squad--on me!
I still think "Avenging X-Men" sounds better than "Unity Squad," and if we're not gonna use it, *somebody* sh--
--sshhhould!

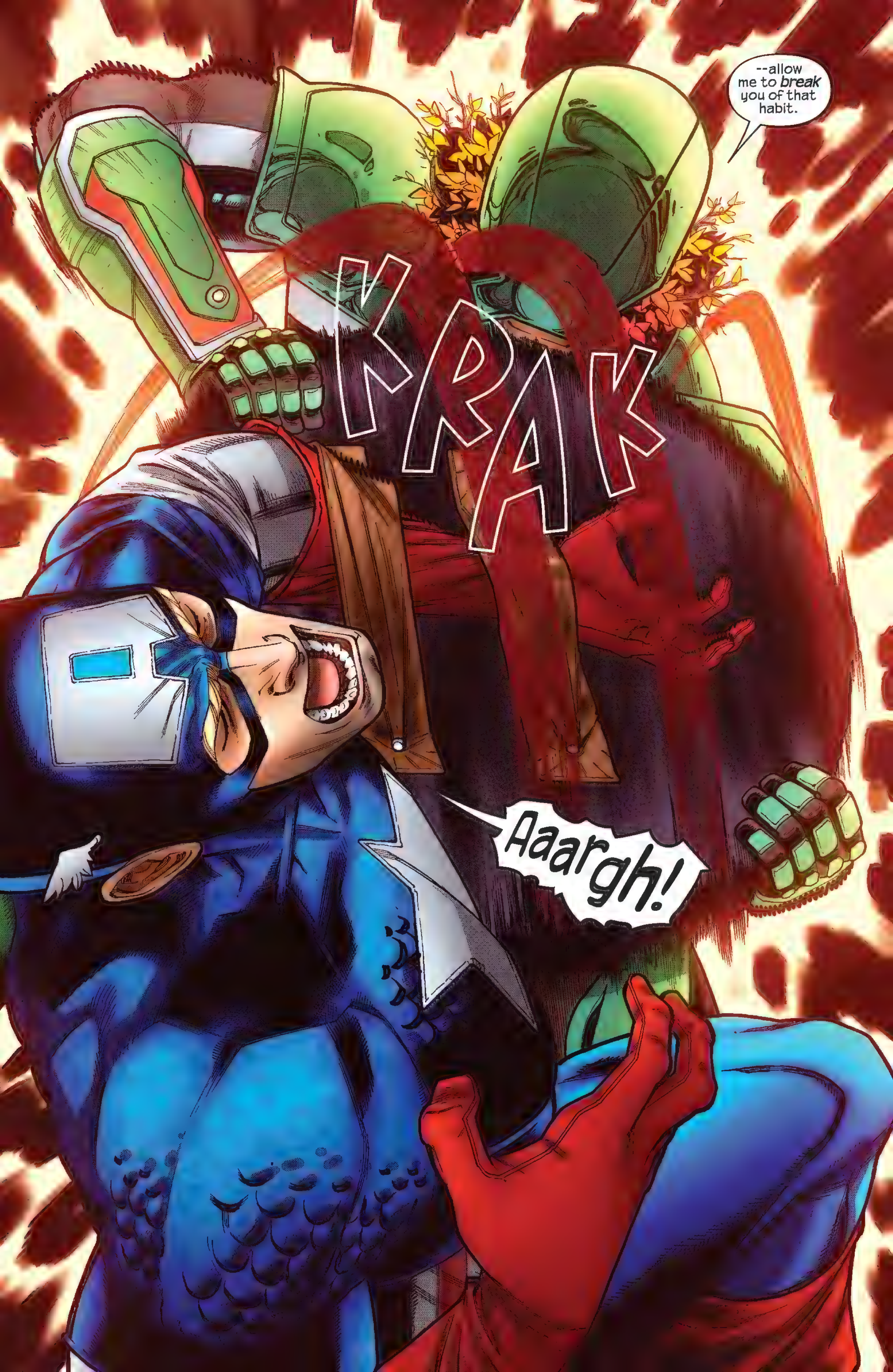

Quicksilver was the fastest man alive. He'd suffered a couple of hard years. First, he and his sister discovered they weren't really the children of Magneto. They were not mutants, and Krakoa was not for them.
Then, before he could reconcile with Magneto, the master of magnetism was killed in action on Arakko.
Watch the hands.
Need a tight grip, or you're going to wind up with road rash.
Pietro found purpose in his service as an Avenger. He was further proof that Rogers' reclamation of misfits was a worthwhile endeavor.
Where are we headed?
You were right-- they're after atomic weapons.


Whoever you are--your attacks have become predictable, "Captain Krakoa." God only knows what you'd have done if we weren't here to stop you.
An', Blob, how are you standing next to *him*?!
You don't get to question my company, Rogue--not when you're standing next to that star-spangled fascist! America supports Orchis!
You never cared about Krakoa. Well, we do!
We're the NEW MUTANT LIBERATION FRONT!


Listen to me, Wildside-- you have one chance to surrender. After that--
Shut up and stay out of my head!
I'll have that armor, murderer.
You can have it--
--if you're still alive when I'm done!
Shall we, Andrea?
Let's, Andreas.
Let's start with Deadpool--
--he's always so annoying.
FAZEEM
Aargh!


=Sigh= I *just* washed this uniform.
Dammit, Fred! You're fighting this war all wrong!
Disguising yourself in the uniform of your enemy is a violation of the Geneva Conventions.
KERCHONG
KRONG


Now let's see who you really are under that mask!
I'm the fighting symbol of my nation, Rogers.
Ughn!
The Krakoan battle suit was designed to amplify the strength of ordinary noncombatants, giving them an edge during an extinction-level event.
Whoever this new Captain Krakoa was--he was much stronger than an ordinary human.
Tsk.
Your attacks are so obvious and predictable--


--allow me to *break* you of that habit.
KRAK
Aaargh!

PAID OP-ED TO BE RUN ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN ALL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS:

Earlier today in New York City, one of Orchis' new guardians of humanity, the Sentinel, was assisting the NY Fire Department when it was attacked by the X-Men.

These wondrous new machines are a collaboration between Orchis and Stark Unlimited, and today, it saved the lives of two firefighters who were at risk of death due to a partial roof collapse. The Sentinel was ultimately destroyed by the Krakoan outlaws because we programmed it to be deferential to the protection of human lives -- at all times.

Rather than defend our property in a protracted battle against mutants in a crowded urban setting, we decided to allow the X-Men to have their "fun" in vandalizing a billion-dollar Iron Man suit designed to preserve human lives.

What care do the X-Men have for life and death? If they die, they are restored by the cult on their island. We humans have but one life to live, and we want to live in peaceful coexistence, but the continued aggression of those suffering from the X-Gene are making that very difficult. We've had wave after wave of violence and even political assassinations.

Tomorrow, New York City will awake and have one less Sentinel to help protect us from the tremendous and terrifying threats we face every day. Please ask yourself this question:

Why do the X-Men hate and fear the basic defensive tools with which we humans seek to protect ourselves?

Despite what the mutants say, their "resurrection" is for them, not us. That is a fact.

Orchis is a collective of hardworking men and women who have stepped up to fill the gap after the dissolution of S.H.I.E.L.D. because how can we not be concerned by the idea of an ethnic nation state that is free to move about the world without any customs or border controls? They are proud of their inhumanity, and that doesn't sit well in my mind.

We've been at a crisis since the moment that mutant zealot Charles Xavier intruded into the most sacred place a human being has -- *into our very minds.* Sovereignty over one's body must include who we invite into our thoughts. Xavier barged into our brains not to save us, but to threaten anyone who dared to question the validity of his undemocratic oligarchy.

A frightening question must be asked of our mutant "friends." If a single powerful telepath can reach across the globe and hammer his thoughts into the heads of everyone alive -- what could that telepath do if, say, he just wanted to control his fellow mutants? Surely not all mutants are bad, but surely some are, and it's long past time for humanity to protect itself from a powerful minority that has yet to prove its willingness to coexist with us.

Nothing would make me happier than to one day, far in the future with my grandson on my knee, look back on this editorial with some embarrassment for misjudging the mutants of Krakoa.

In the meantime, we must continue to prepare to put humanity first in these difficult and disruptive times.

In Genetic Solidarity,

Dr. Stasis

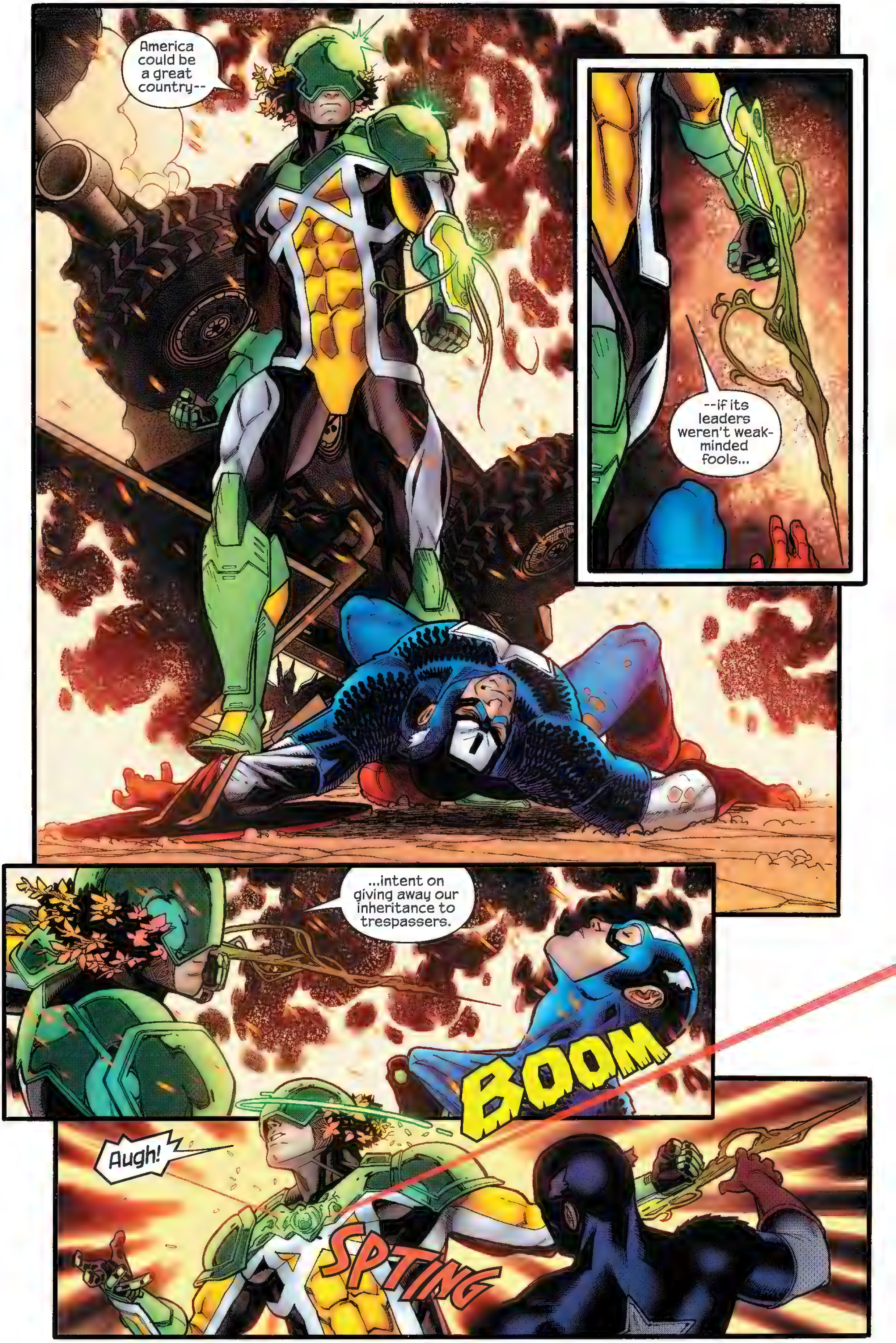
Dr. Stasis
Orchis Director of Human Resources

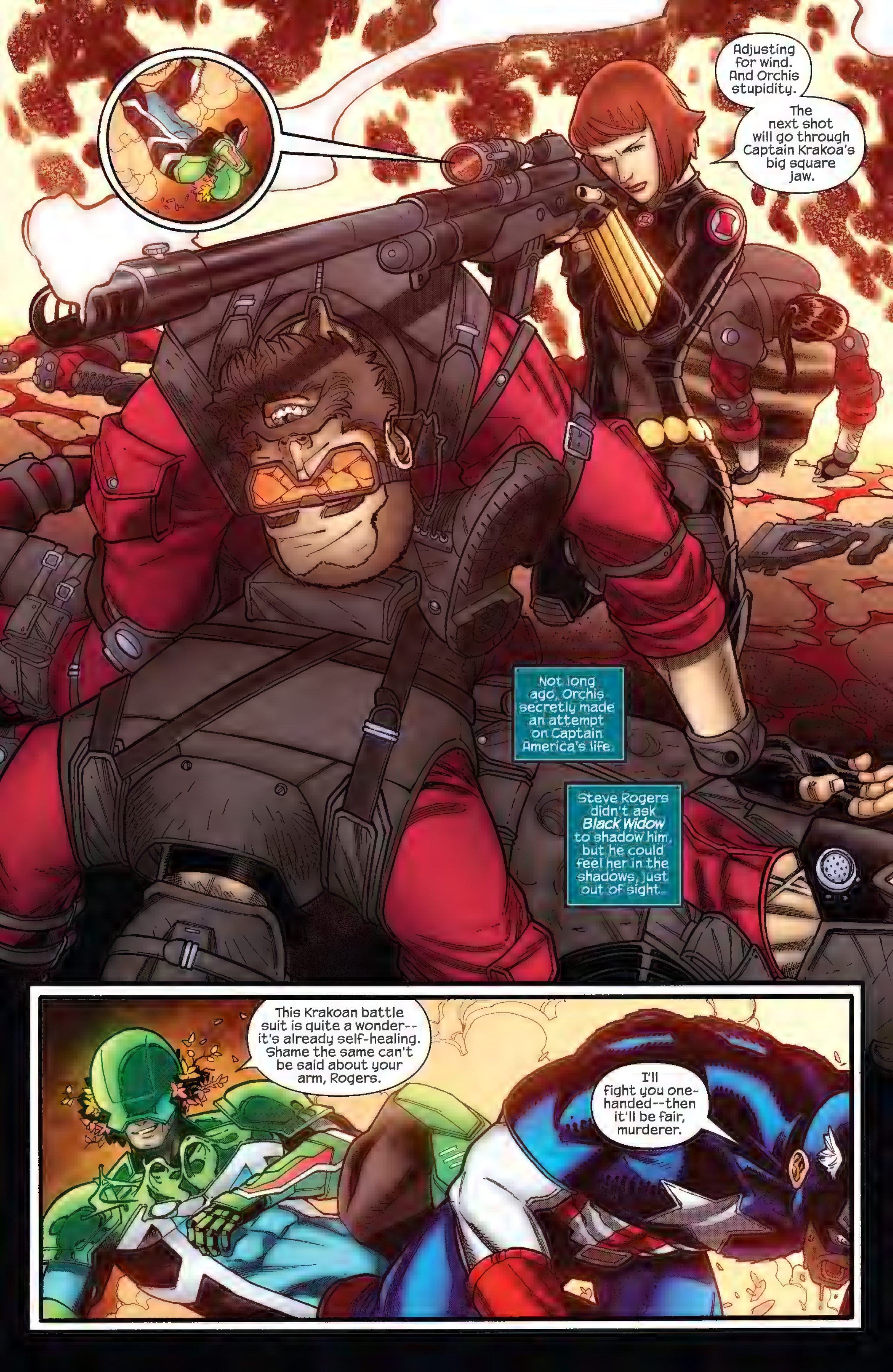
P.S. We're hiring! Visit our website if you think you've got what it takes to protect humanity.

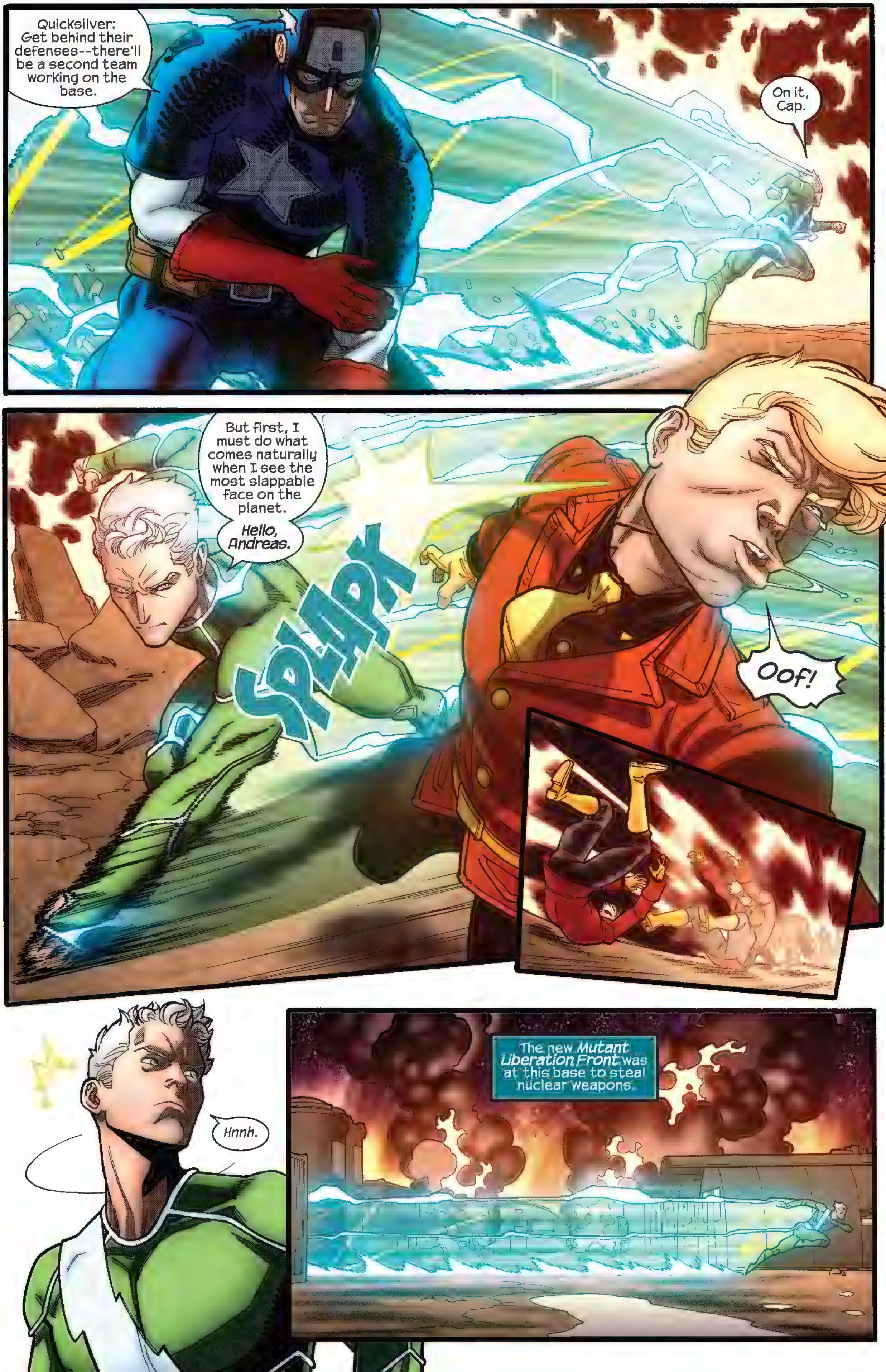
Chapter 02

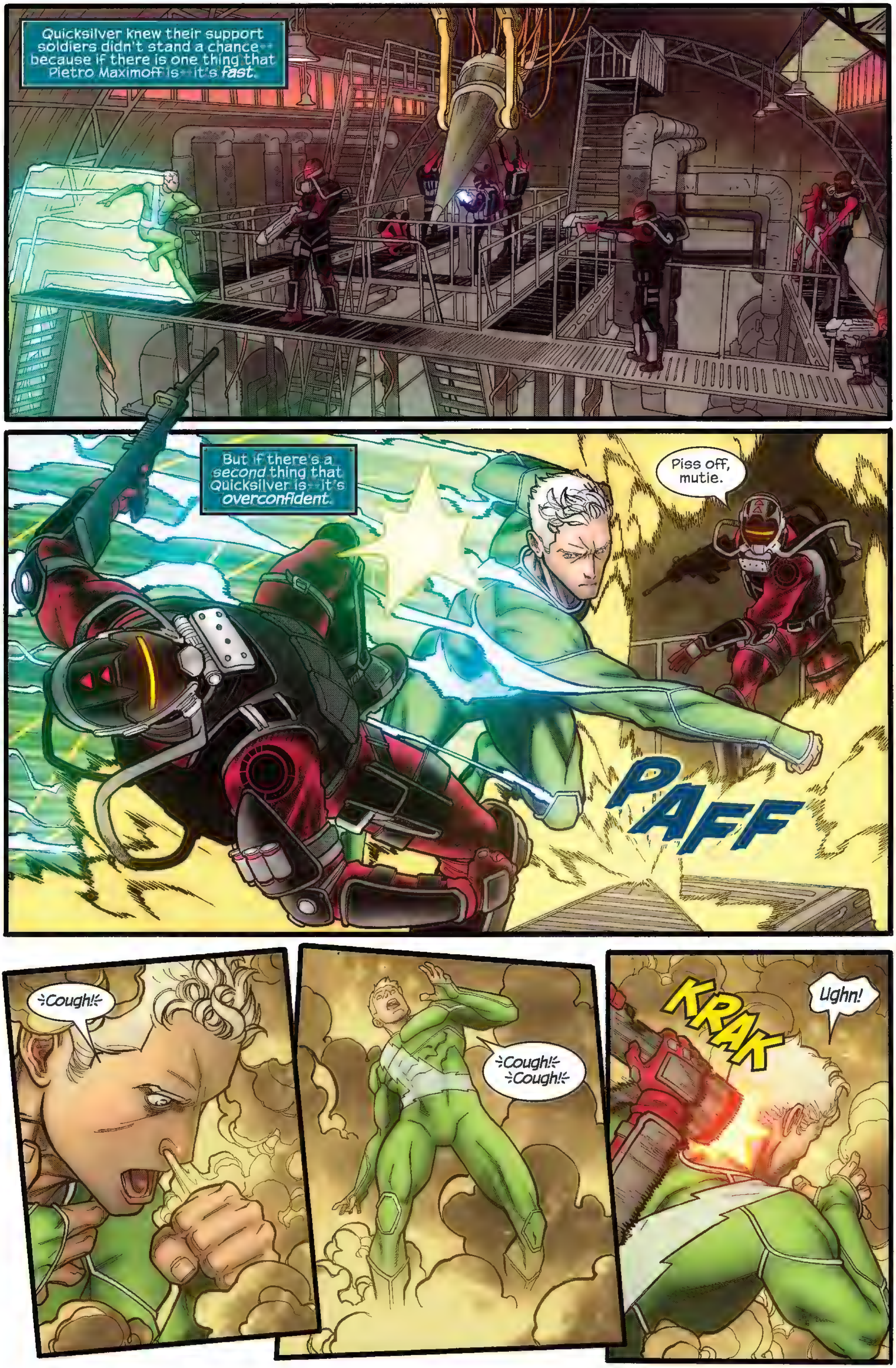
New Avengers

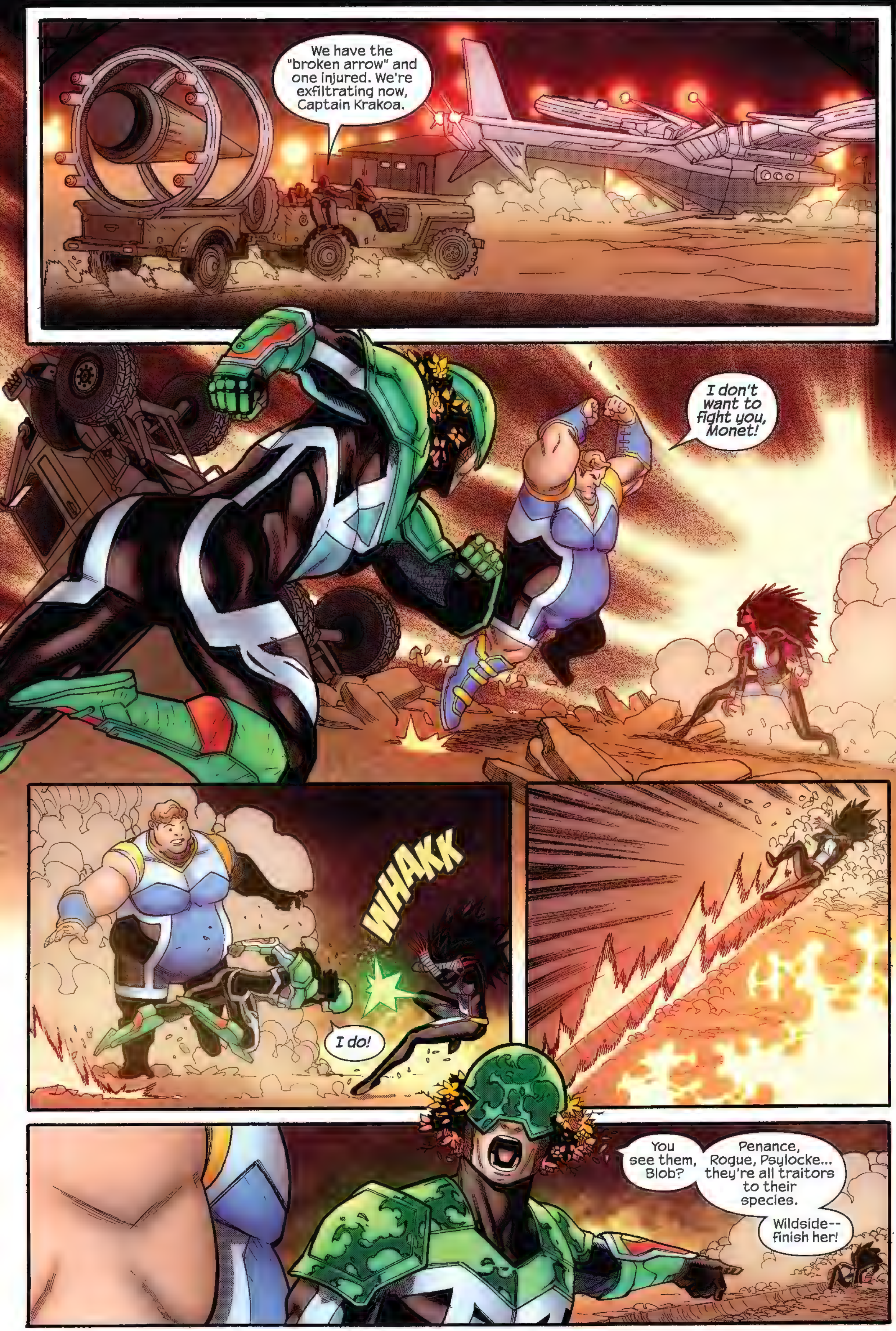
2

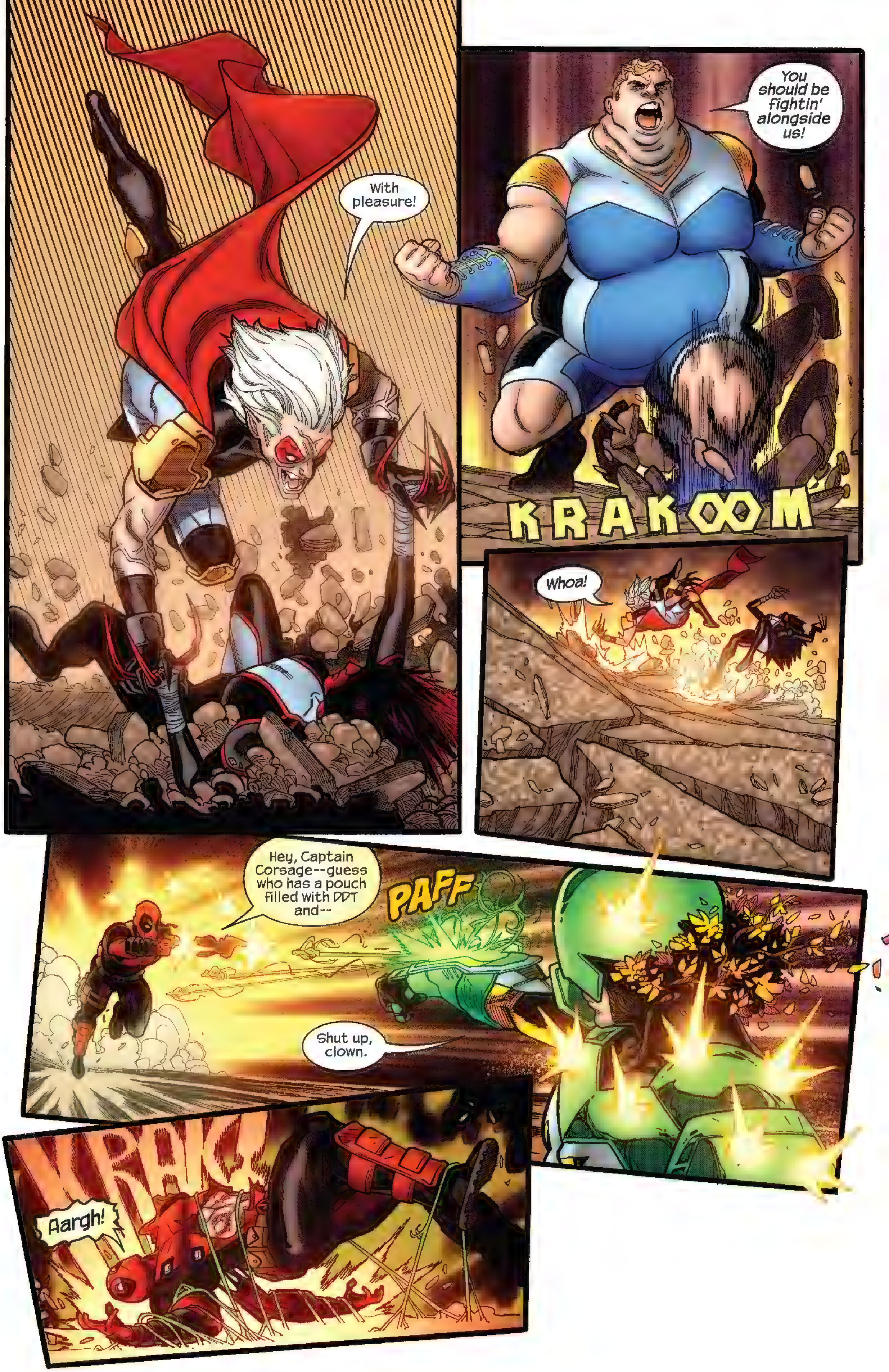

America could be a great country--
--if its leaders weren't weak-minded fools...
...intent on giving away our inheritance to trespassers.
BOOM
Augh!
SPTING

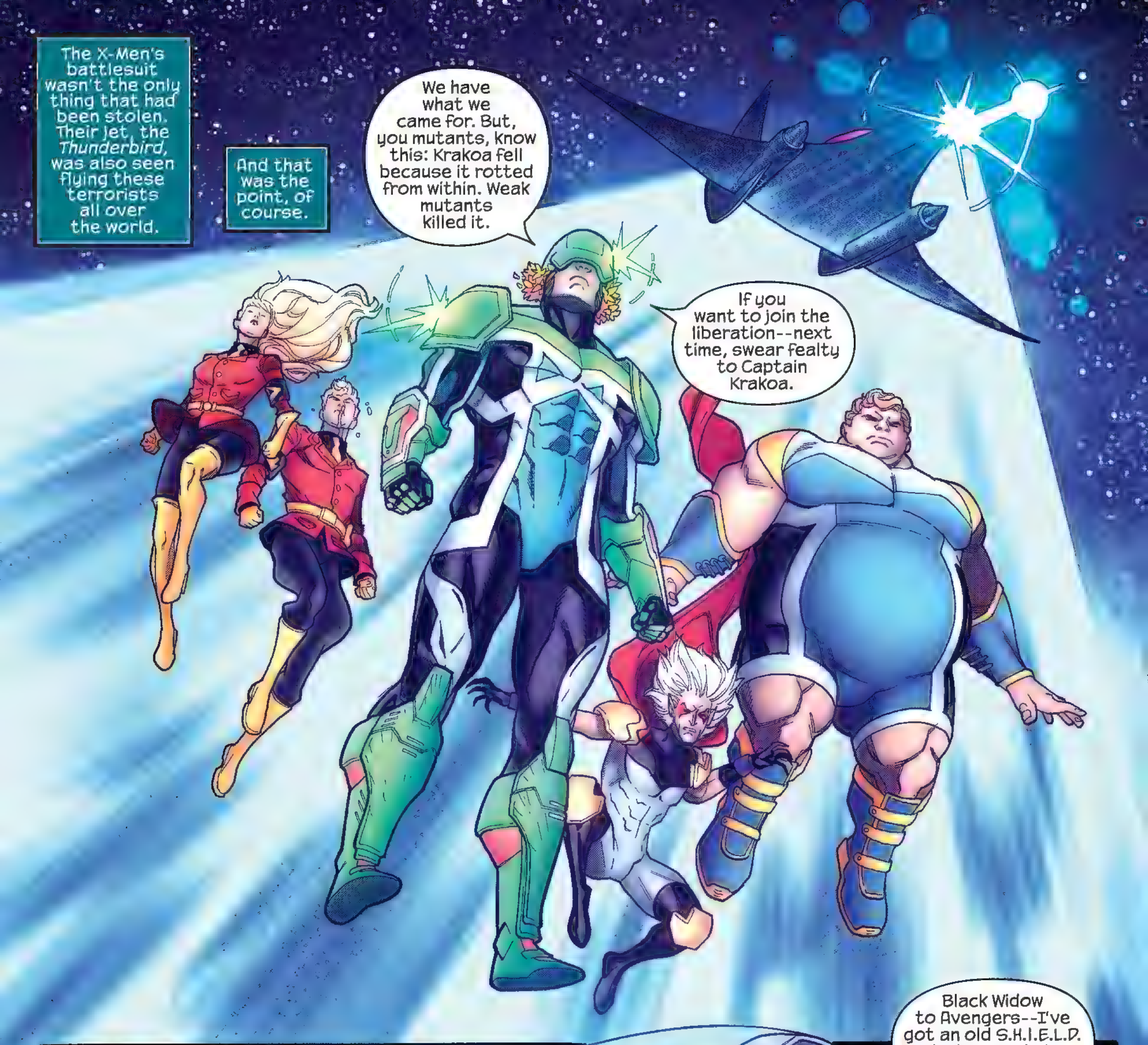

Adjusting for wind. And Orchis stupidity.
The next shot will go through Captain Krakoa's big square jaw.
Not long ago, Orchis secretly made an attempt on Captain America's life.
Steve Rogers didn't ask *Black Widow* to shadow him, but he could feel her in the shadows, just out of sight.
This Krakoan battle suit is quite a wonder--it's already self-healing. Shame the same can't be said about your arm, Rogers.
I'll fight you one-handed--then it'll be fair, murderer.

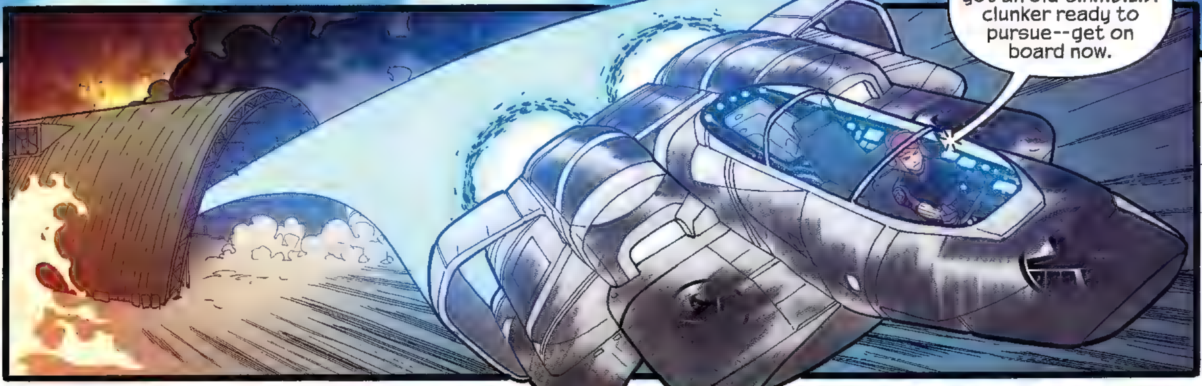

Quicksilver: Get behind their defenses--there'll be a second team working on the base.
On it, Cap.
But first, I must do what comes naturally when I see the most slappable face on the planet.
Hello, Andreas.
SPLAPK
Oof!
Hnnh.
The new *Mutant Liberation Front* was at this base to steal nuclear weapons.

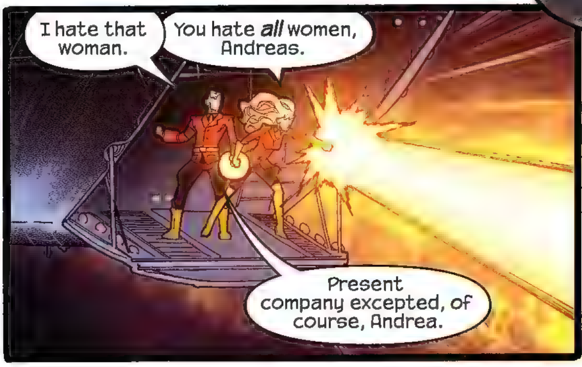

Quicksilver knew their support soldiers didn't stand a chance--because if there is one thing that Pietro Maximoff is--it's *fast.*
But if there's a *second* thing that Quicksilver is--it's *overconfident.*
Piss off, mutie.
PAFF
Cough!
Cough! Cough!
KRAK
Ughn!

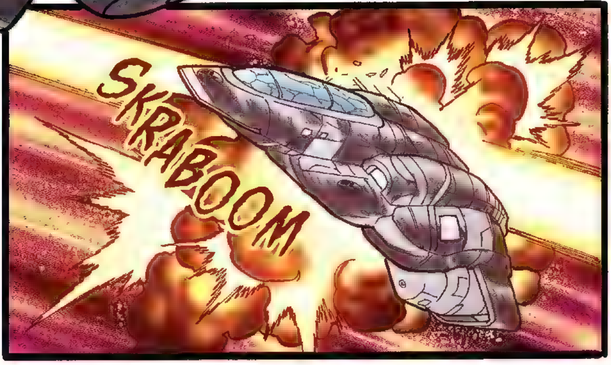

We have the "broken arrow" and one injured. We're exfiltrating now, Captain Krakoa.
I don't want to fight you, Monet!
WHAKK
I do!
You see them, Blob?
Penance, Rogue, Psylocke... they're all traitors to their species.
Wildside-- finish her!

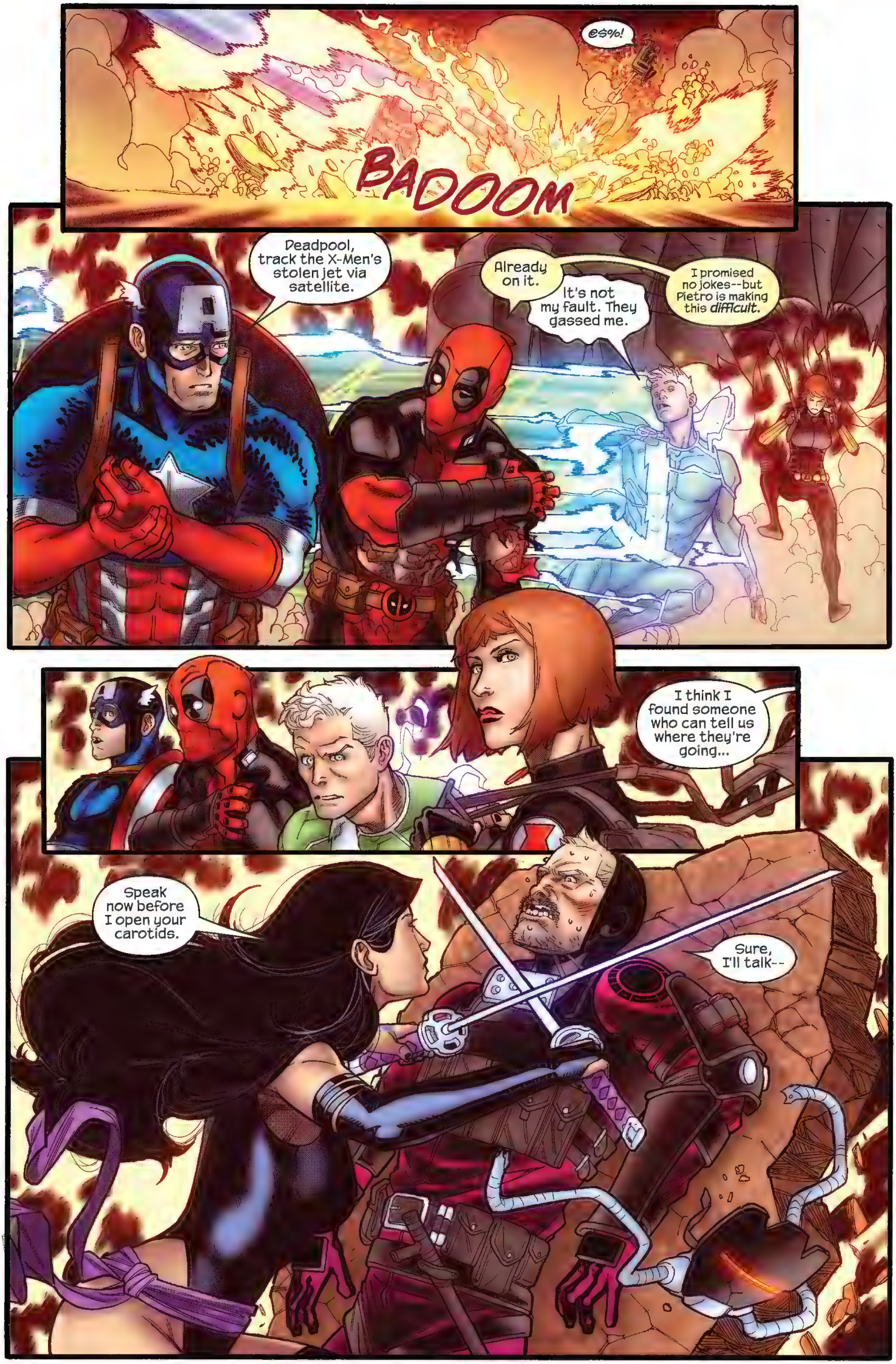

You should be fightin' alongside us!
With pleasure!
KRAKOOM
Whoa!
Hey, Captain Corsage--guess who has a pouch filled with DDT and--
PAFF
Shut up, clown.
KRAK
Aargh!

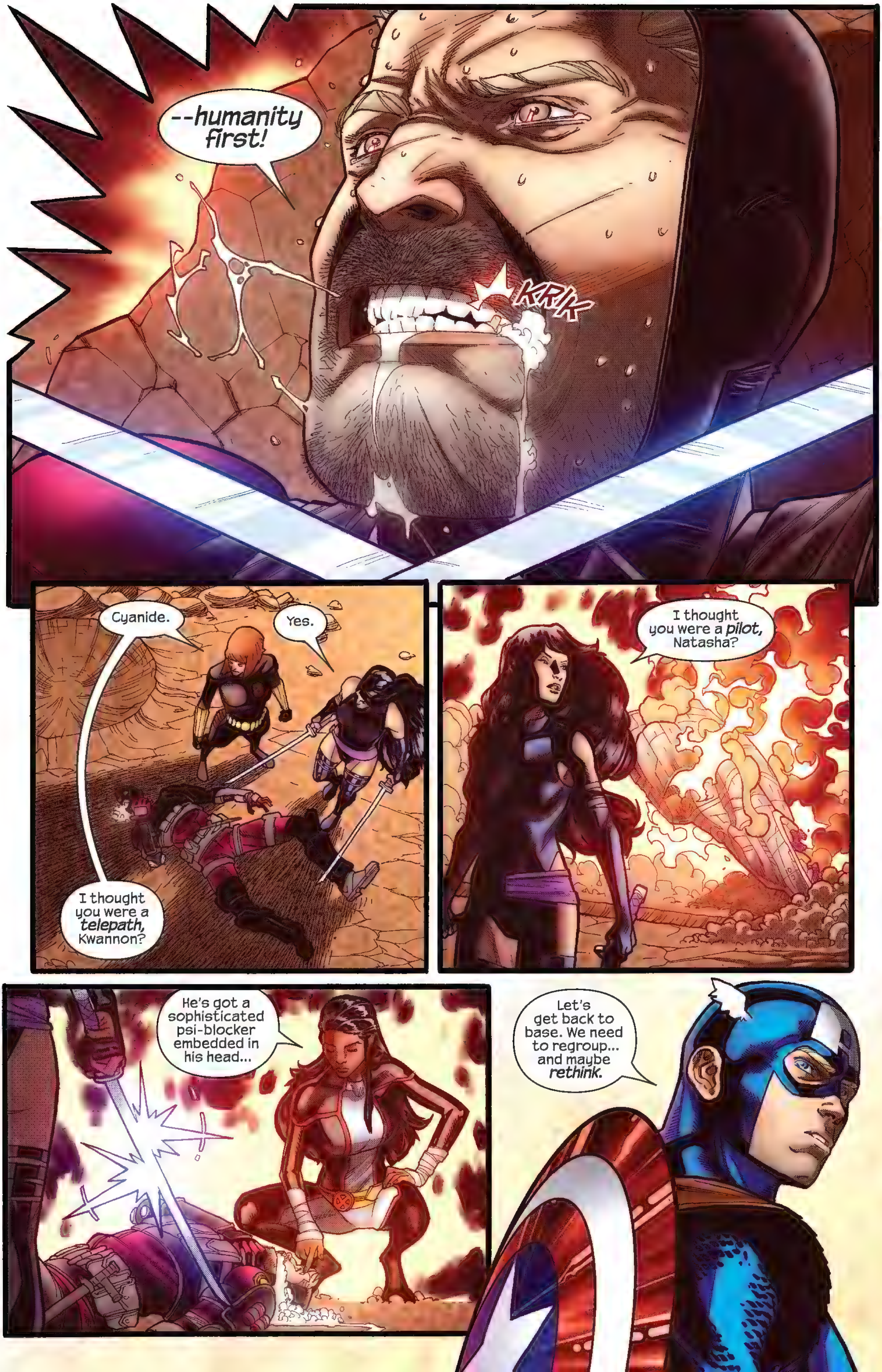

The X-Men's battlesuit wasn't the only thing that had been stolen. Their jet, the *Thunderbird*, was also seen flying these terrorists all over the world.
And that was the point, of course.
We have what we came for. But, you mutants, know this: Krakoa fell because it rotted from within. Weak mutants killed it.
If you want to join the liberation--next time, swear fealty to Captain Krakoa.

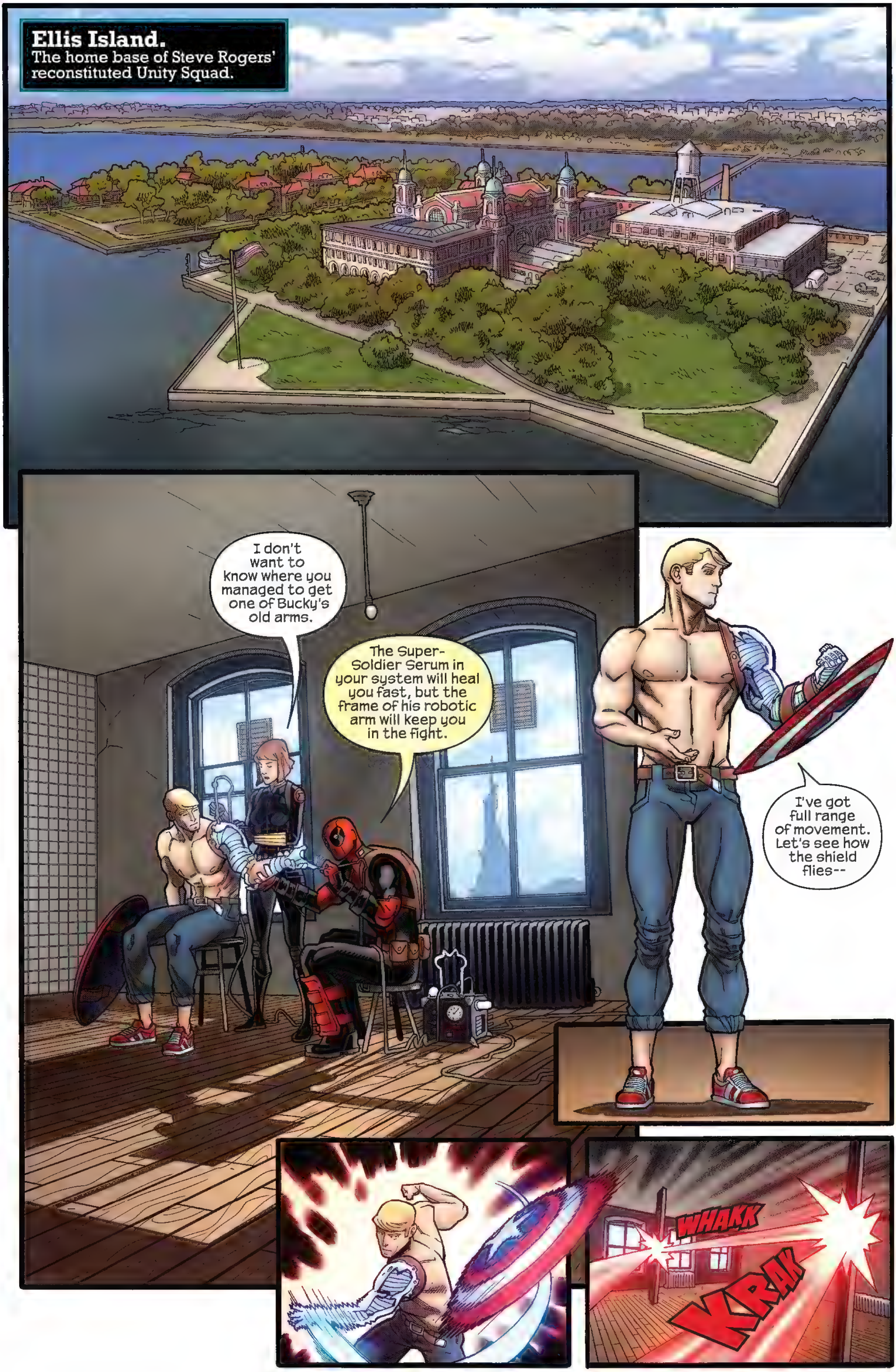

Black Widow to Avengers--I've got an old S.H.I.E.L.D. clunker ready to pursue--get on board now.

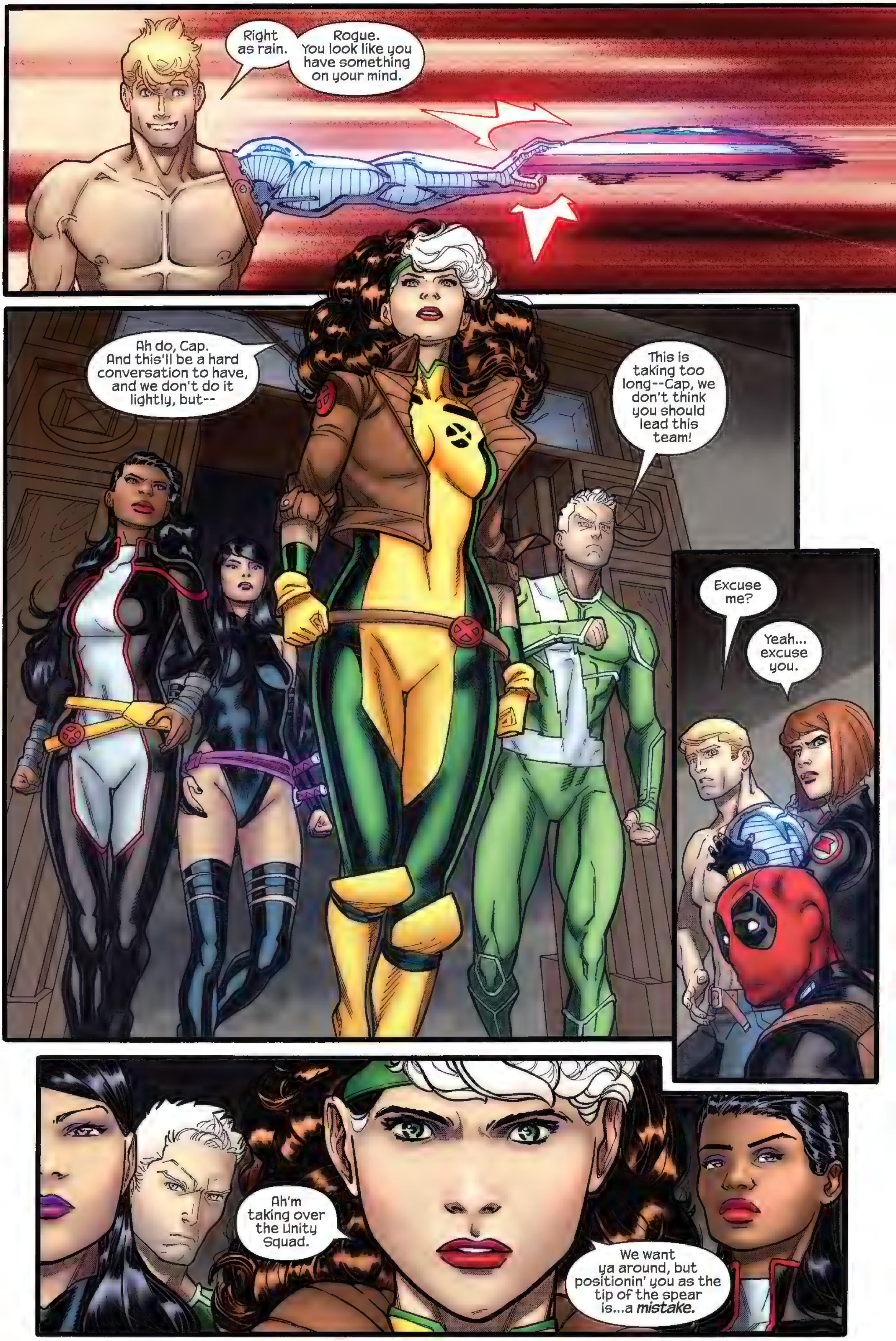

I hate that woman.
You hate *all* women, Andreas.
Present company excepted, of course, Andrea.

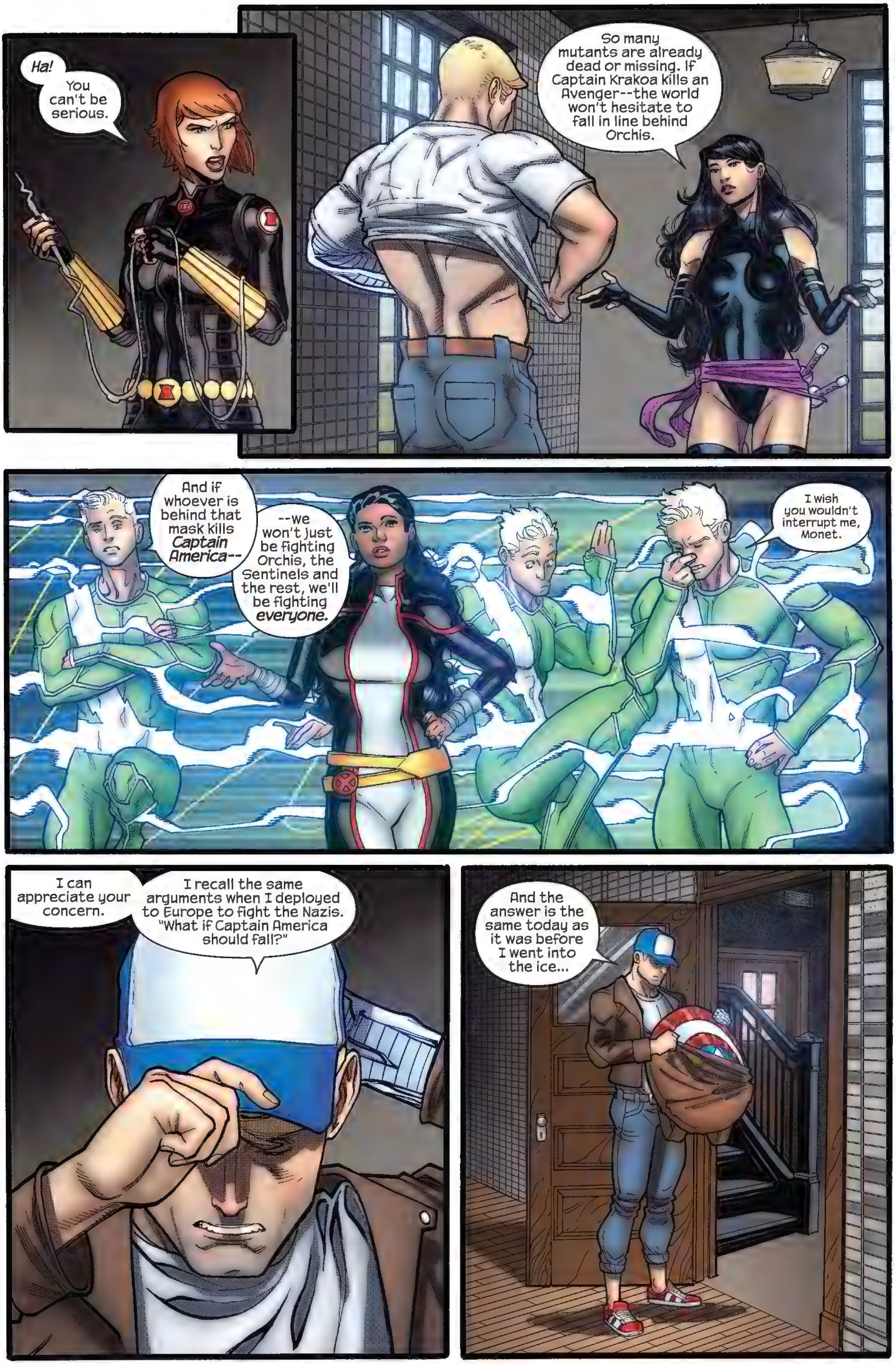

SKRABOOM

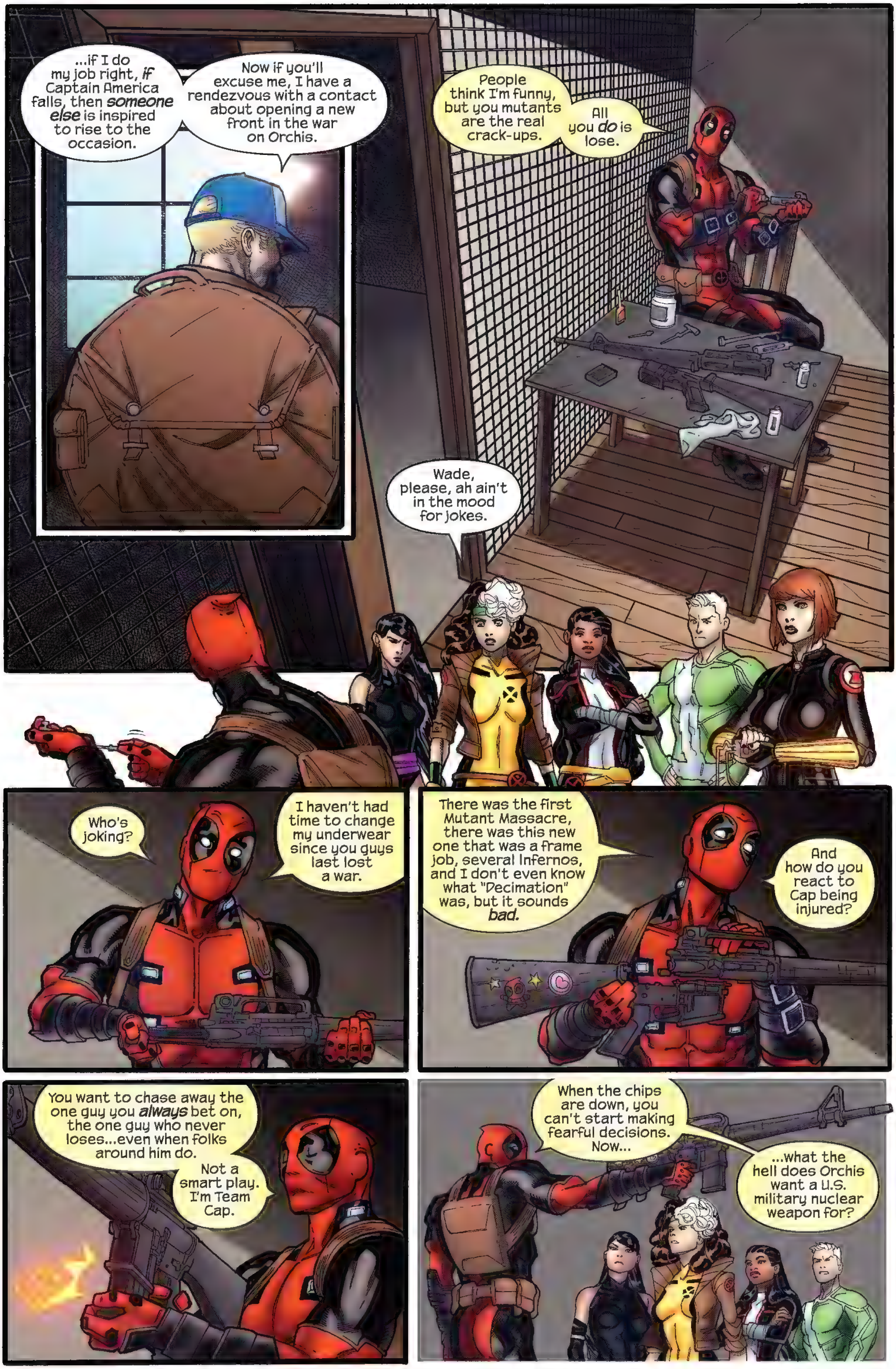

@$%!
BADOOM
Deadpool, track the X-Men's stolen jet via satellite.
Already on it.
It's not my fault. They gassed me.
I promised no jokes--but Pietro is making this ***difficult.***
I think I found someone who can tell us where they're going...
Speak now before I open your carotids.
Sure, I'll talk--

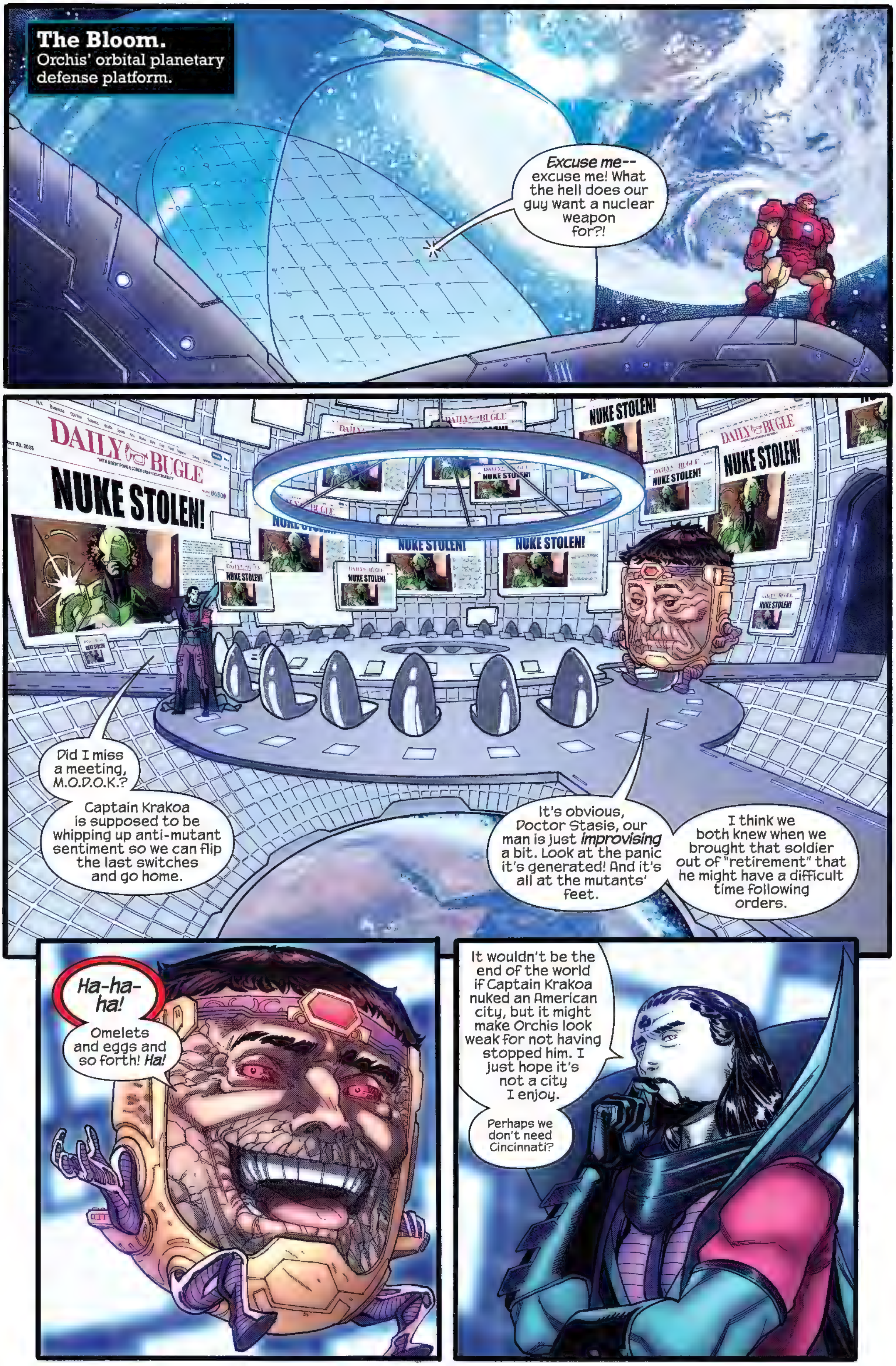

--humanity first!
KRIK
Cyanide.
Yes.
I thought you were a *telepath,* Kwannon?
I thought you were a *pilot,* Natasha?
He's got a sophisticated psi-blocker embedded in his head...
Let's get back to base. We need to regroup... and maybe *rethink.*

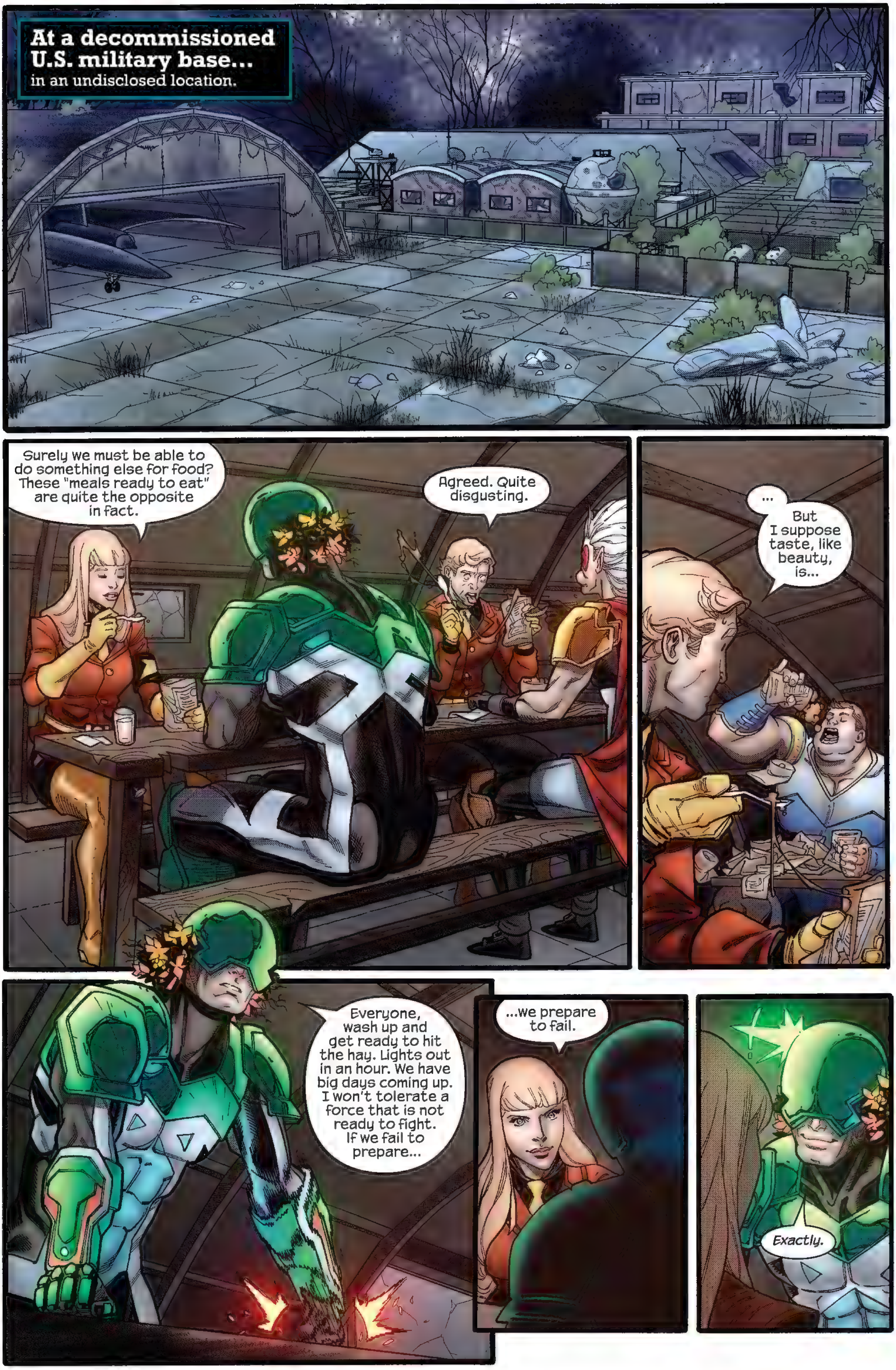

Ellis Island.
The home base of Steve Rogers' reconstituted Unity Squad.
I don't want to know where you managed to get one of Bucky's old arms.
The Super-Soldier Serum in your system will heal you fast, but the frame of his robotic arm will keep you in the fight.
I've got full range of movement. Let's see how the shield flies--
WHAKK
KRAK

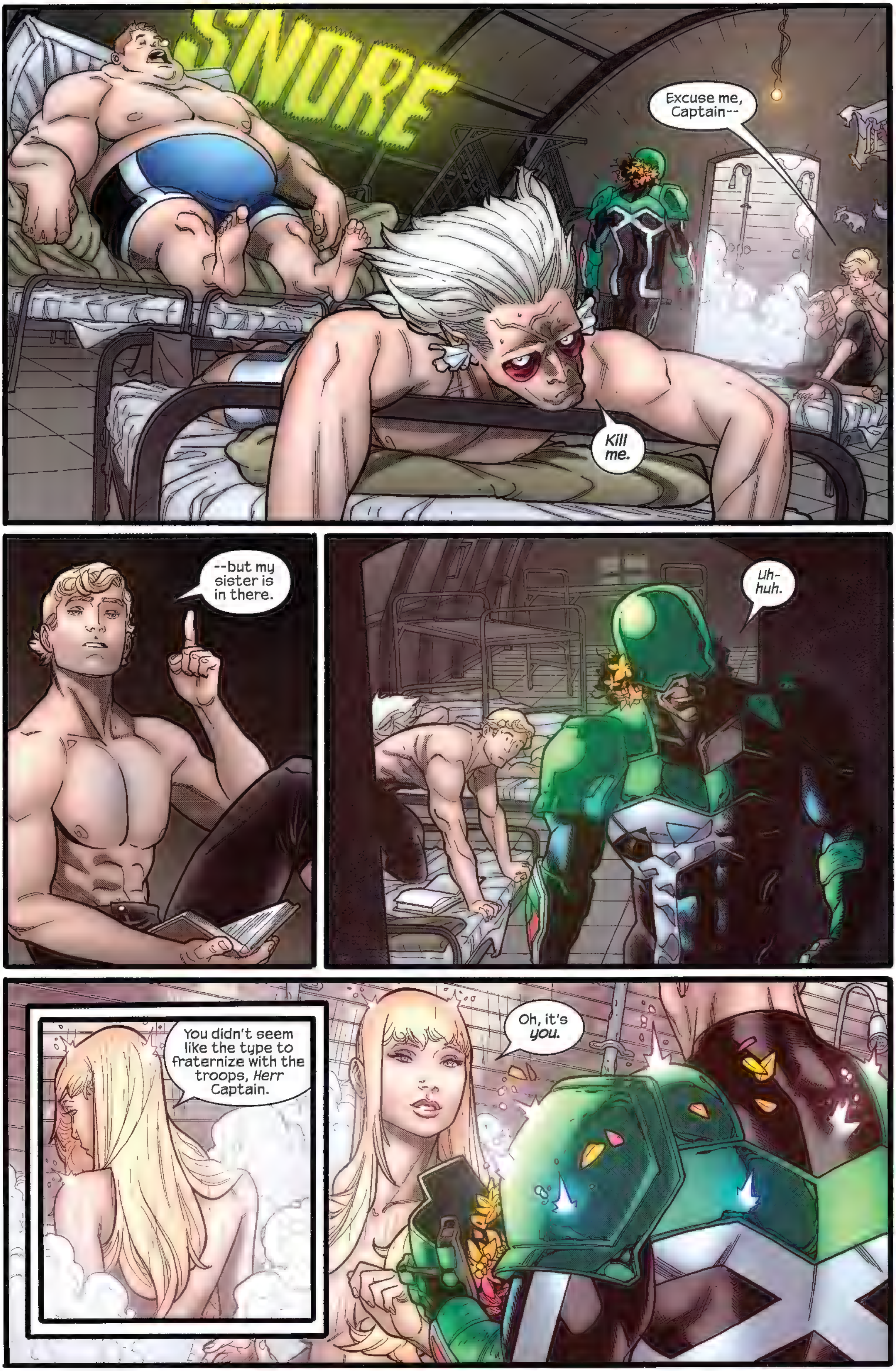

Right as rain.
Rogue. You look like you have something on your mind.
Ah do, Cap. And this'll be a hard conversation to have, and we don't do it lightly, but--
This is taking too long--Cap, we don't think you should lead this team!
Excuse me?
Yeah... excuse you.
Ah'm taking over the Unity Squad.
We want ya around, but positionin' you as the tip of the spear is...a *mistake*.

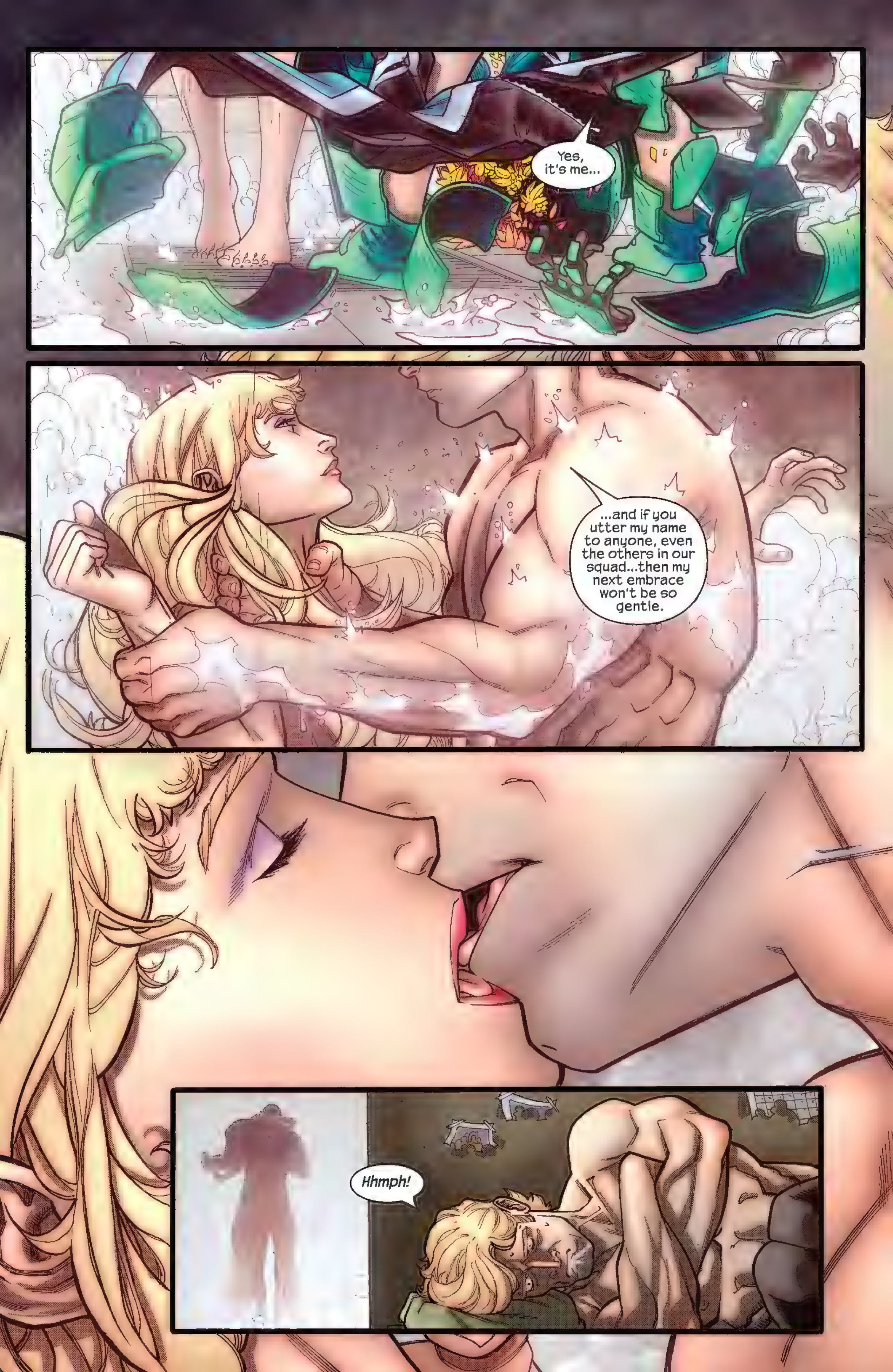

Ha! You can't be serious.
So many mutants are already dead or missing. If Captain Krakoa kills an Avenger--the world won't hesitate to fall in line behind Orchis.
And if whoever is behind that mask kills *Captain America*--
--we won't just be fighting Orchis, the Sentinels and the rest, we'll be fighting *everyone.*
I wish you wouldn't interrupt me, Monet.
I can appreciate your concern.
I recall the same arguments when I deployed to Europe to fight the Nazis. "What if Captain America should fall?"
And the answer is the same today as it was before I went into the ice...

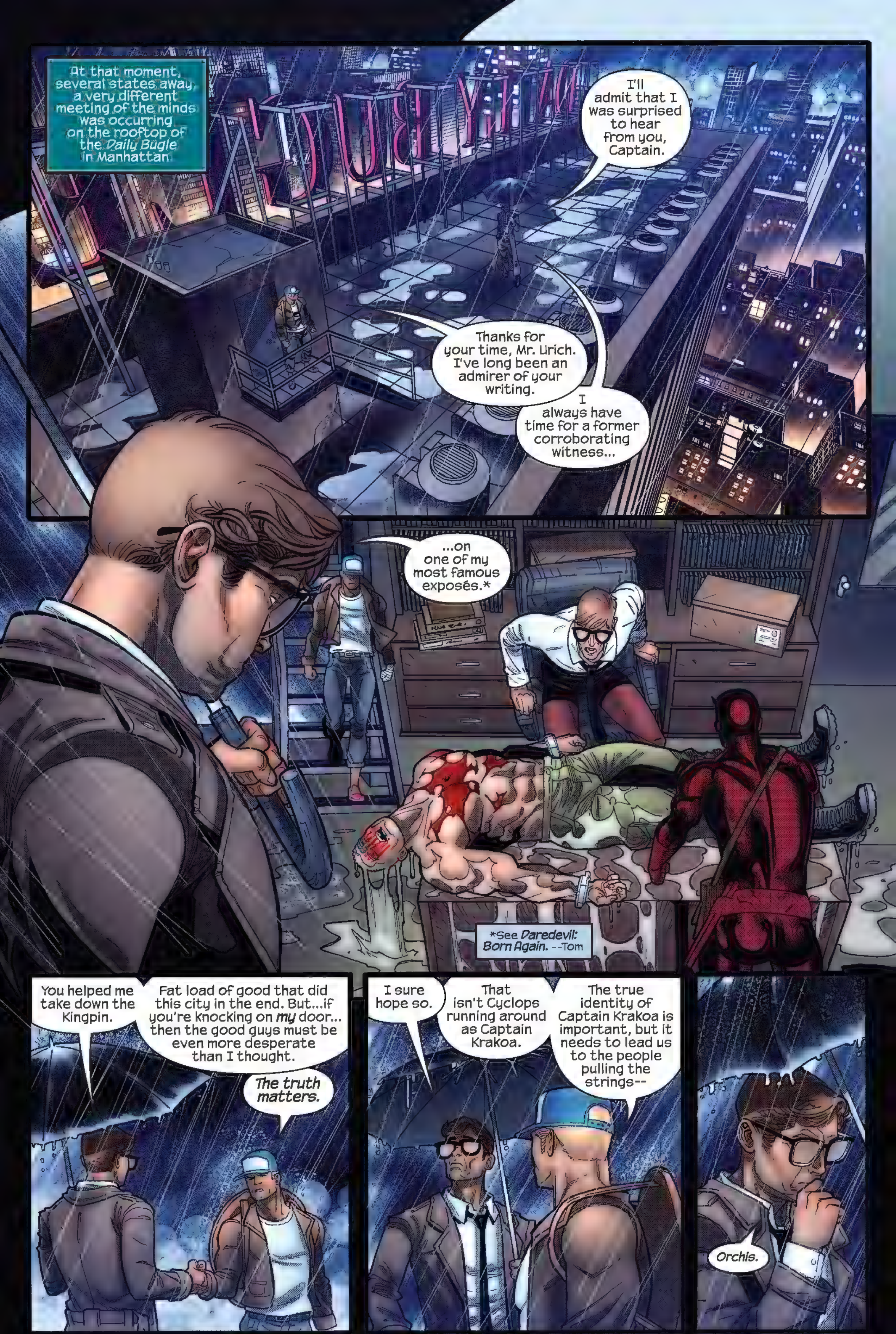

...if I do my job right, *if* Captain America falls, then ***someone else*** is inspired to rise to the occasion.
Now if you'll excuse me, I have a rendezvous with a contact about opening a new front in the war on Orchis.
People think I'm funny, but you mutants are the real crack-ups.
All you *do* is lose.
Wade, please, ah ain't in the mood for jokes.
Who's joking?
I haven't had time to change my underwear since you guys last lost a war.
There was the first Mutant Massacre, there was this new one that was a frame job, several Infernos, and I don't even know what "Decimation" was, but it sounds ***bad.***
And how do you react to Cap being injured?
You want to chase away the one guy you *always* bet on, the one guy who never loses...even when folks around him do.
Not a smart play. I'm Team Cap.
When the chips are down, you can't start making fearful decisions. Now...
...what the hell does Orchis want a U.S. military nuclear weapon for?

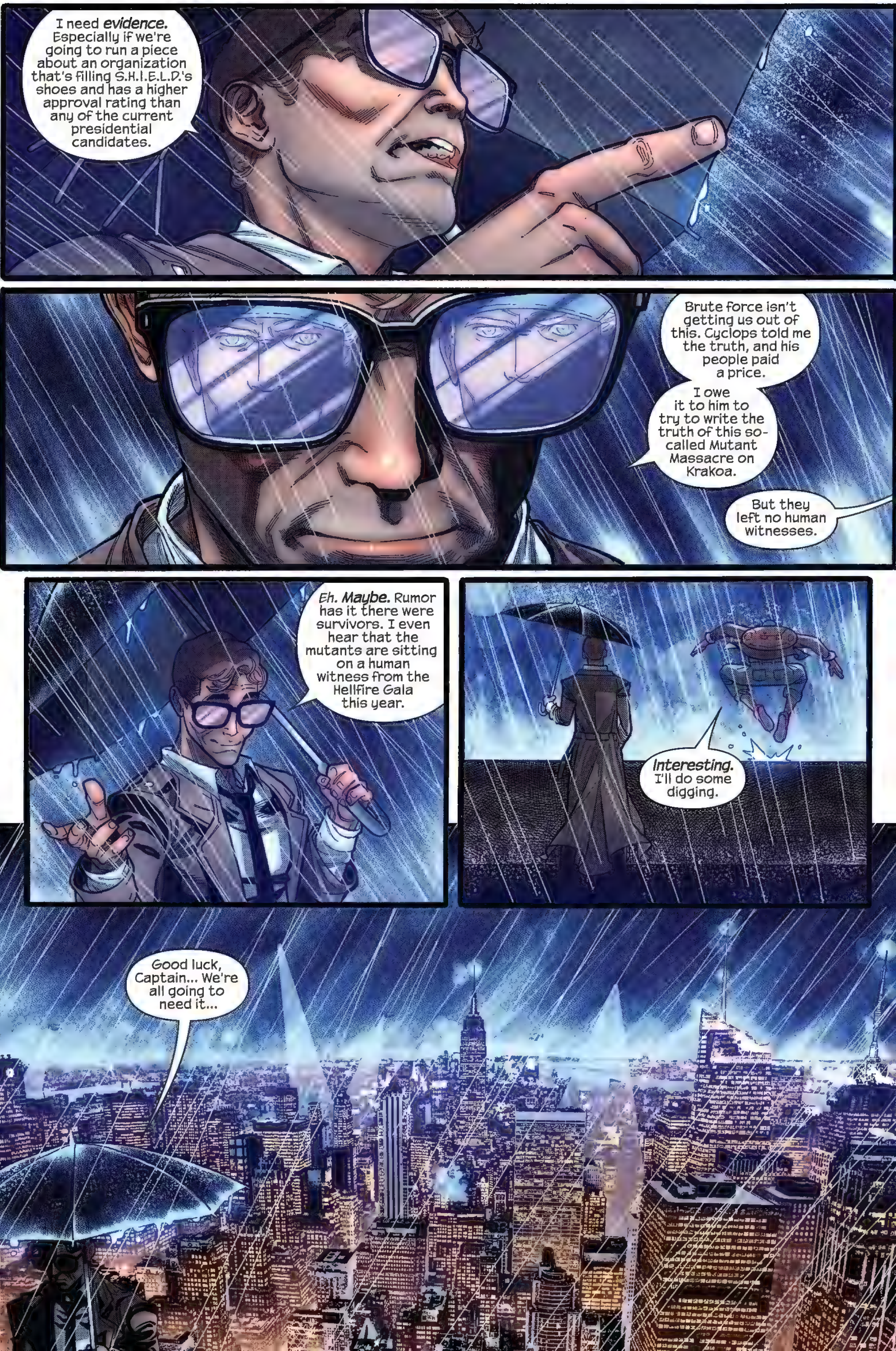

The Bloom.
Orchis' orbital planetary defense platform.
Excuse me-- excuse me! What the hell does our guy want a nuclear weapon for?!
DAILY BUGLE
"WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY"
NUKE STOLEN!
Did I miss a meeting, M.O.D.O.K.?
Captain Krakoa is supposed to be whipping up anti-mutant sentiment so we can flip the last switches and go home.
It's obvious, Doctor Stasis, our man is just *improvising* a bit. Look at the panic it's generated! And it's all at the mutants' feet.
I think we both knew when we brought that soldier out of "retirement" that he might have a difficult time following orders.
Ha-ha-ha!
Omelets and eggs and so forth! *Ha!*
It wouldn't be the end of the world if Captain Krakoa nuked an American city, but it might make Orchis look weak for not having stopped him. I just hope it's not a city I enjoy.
Perhaps we don't need Cincinnati?

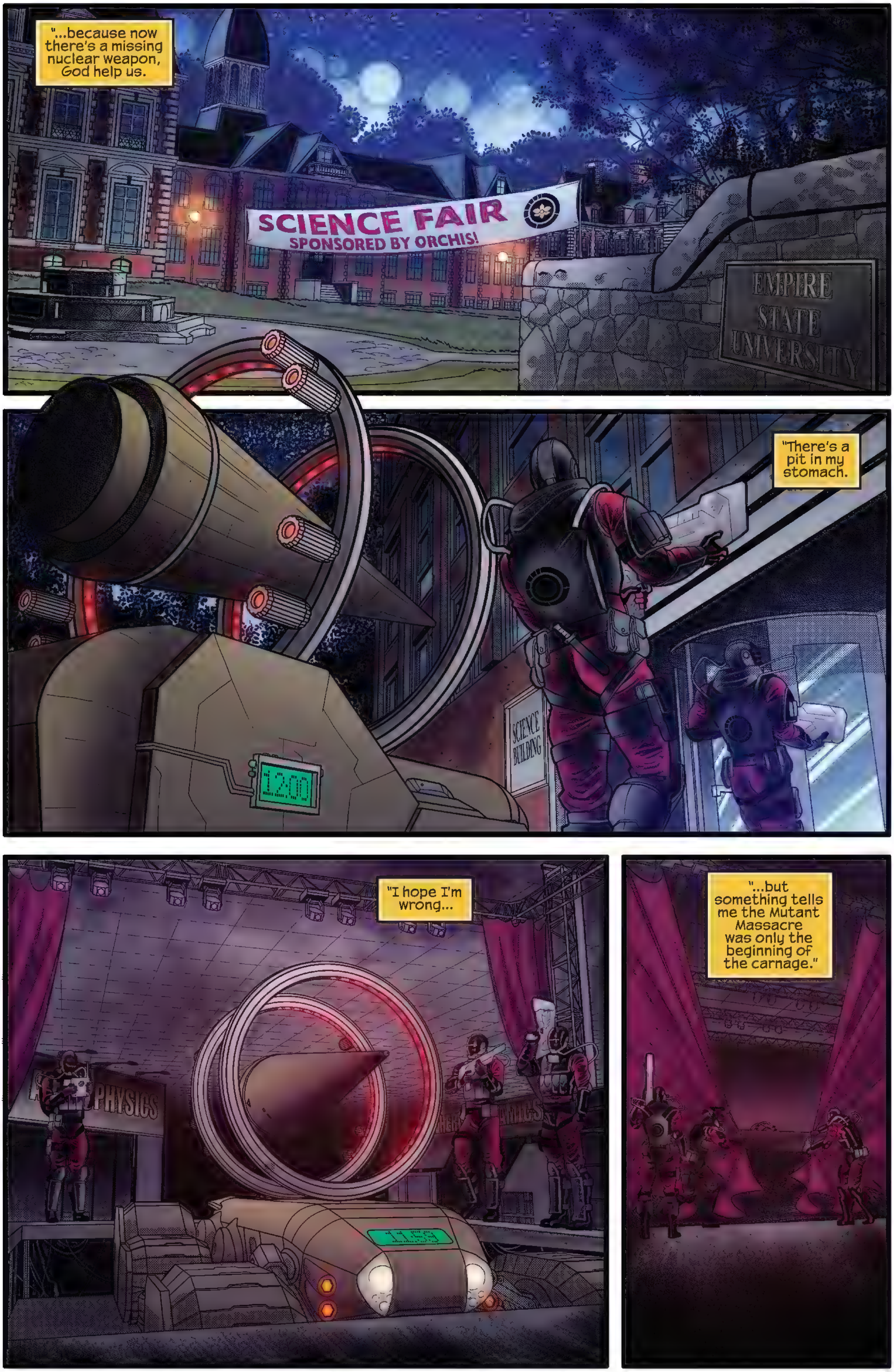

At a decommissioned U.S. military base...
in an undisclosed location.
Surely we must be able to do something else for food? These "meals ready to eat" are quite the opposite in fact.
Agreed. Quite disgusting.
...
But I suppose taste, like beauty, is...
Everyone, wash up and get ready to hit the hay. Lights out in an hour. We have big days coming up. I won't tolerate a force that is not ready to fight. If we fail to prepare...
...we prepare to fail.
Exactly.


SNORE
Excuse me, Captain--
Kill me.
--but my sister is in there.
Uh-huh.
You didn't seem like the type to fraternize with the troops, *Herr* Captain.
Oh, it's *you.*


Yes, it's me...
...and if you utter my name to anyone, even the others in our squad...then my next embrace won't be so gentle.
Hhmph!

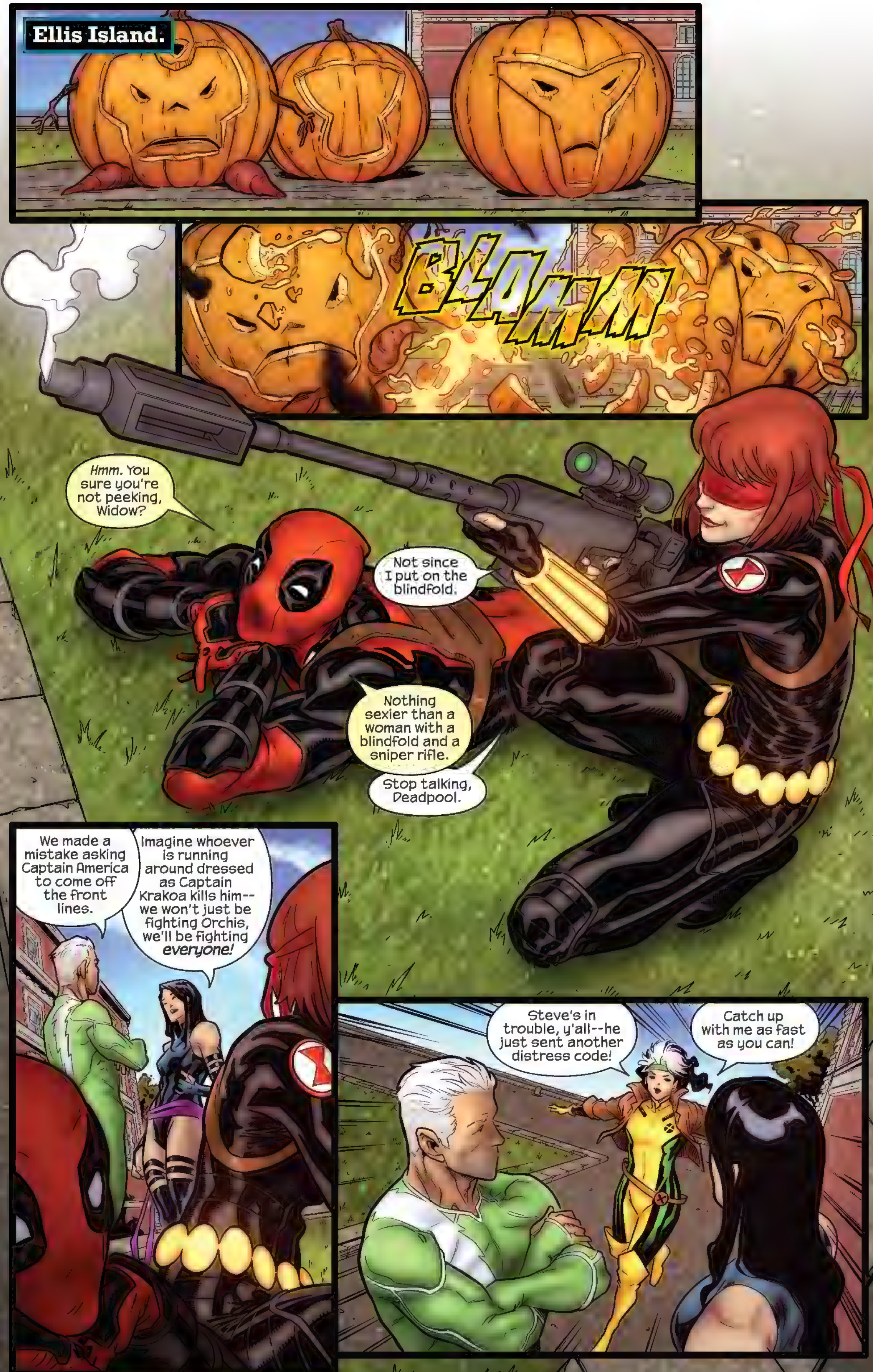

At that moment, several states away, a very different meeting of the minds was occurring on the rooftop of the *Daily Bugle* in Manhattan.
I'll admit that I was surprised to hear from you, Captain.
Thanks for your time, Mr. Urich. I've long been an admirer of your writing.
I always have time for a former corroborating witness...
...on one of my most famous exposés.*
*See *Daredevil: Born Again.* --Tom
You helped me take down the Kingpin.
Fat load of good that did this city in the end. But...if you're knocking on *my* door... then the good guys must be even more desperate than I thought.
The truth matters.
I sure hope so.
That isn't Cyclops running around as Captain Krakoa.
The true identity of Captain Krakoa is important, but it needs to lead us to the people pulling the strings--
Orchis.

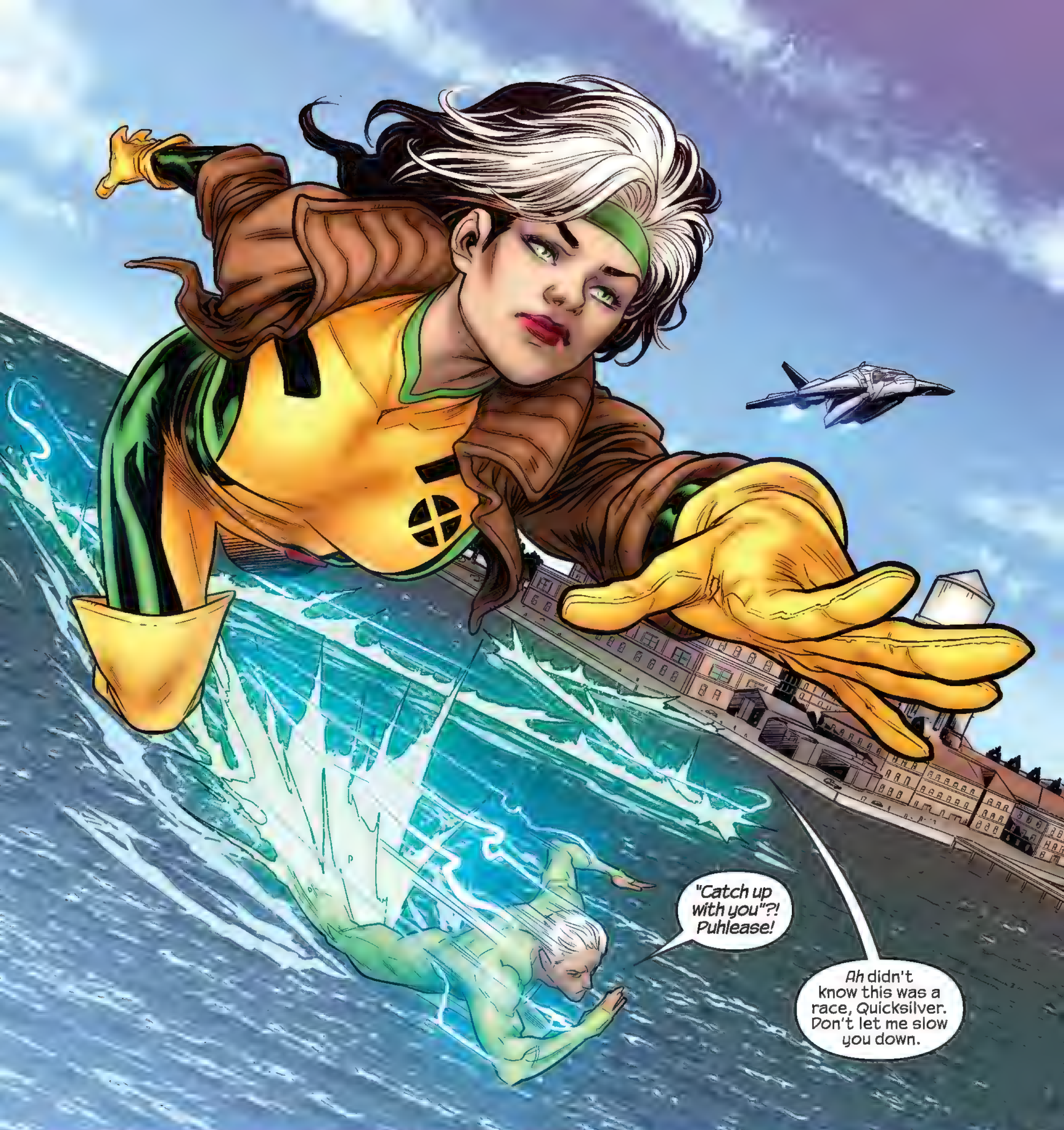

I need *evidence.* Especially if we're going to run a piece about an organization that's filling S.H.I.E.L.D.'s shoes and has a higher approval rating than any of the current presidential candidates.
Brute force isn't getting us out of this. Cyclops told me the truth, and his people paid a price.
I owe it to him to try to write the truth of this so-called Mutant Massacre on Krakoa.
But they left no human witnesses.
Eh. Maybe. Rumor has it there were survivors. I even hear that the mutants are sitting on a human witness from the Hellfire Gala this year.
Interesting. I'll do some digging.
Good luck, Captain... We're all going to need it...

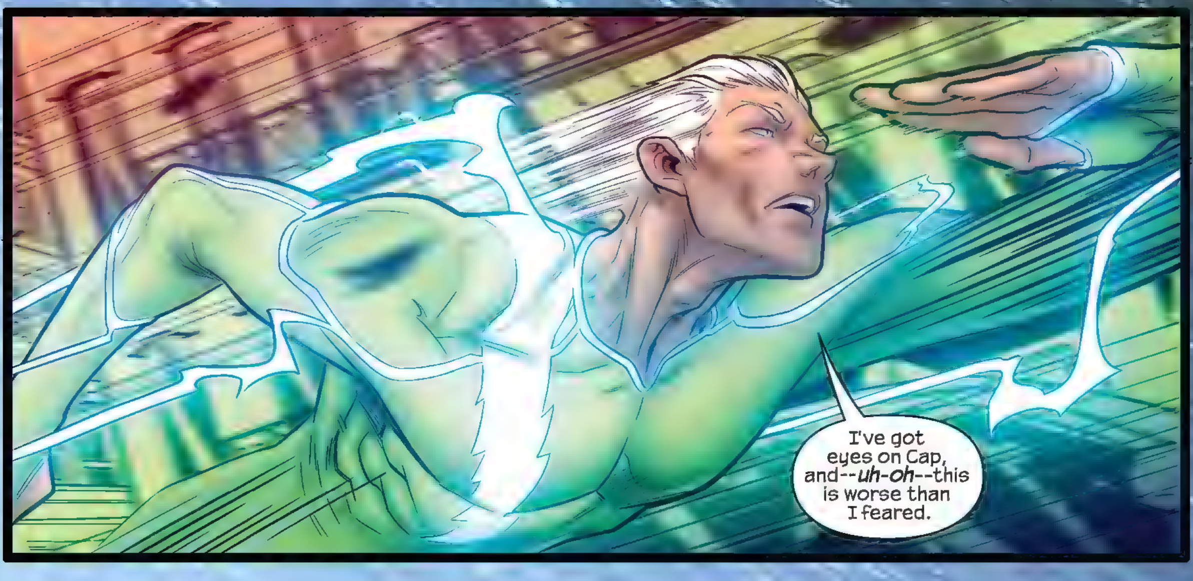

"...because now there's a missing nuclear weapon, God help us.
SCIENCE FAIR
SPONSORED BY ORCHIS!
EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY
"There's a pit in my stomach.
SCIENCE BUILDING
12:00
"I hope I'm wrong...
PHYSICS
"...but something tells me the Mutant Massacre was only the beginning of the carnage."

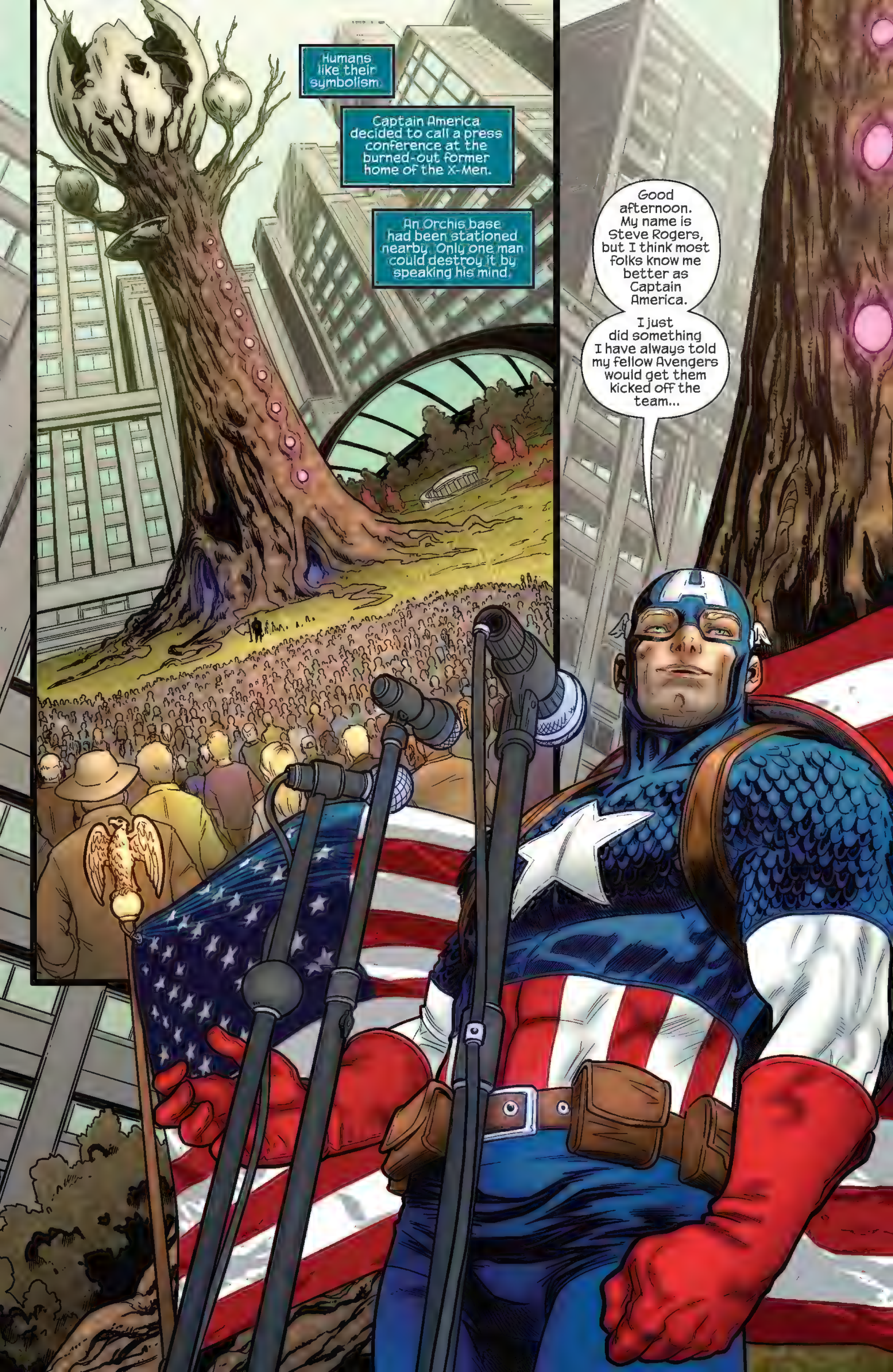
The Arrogants

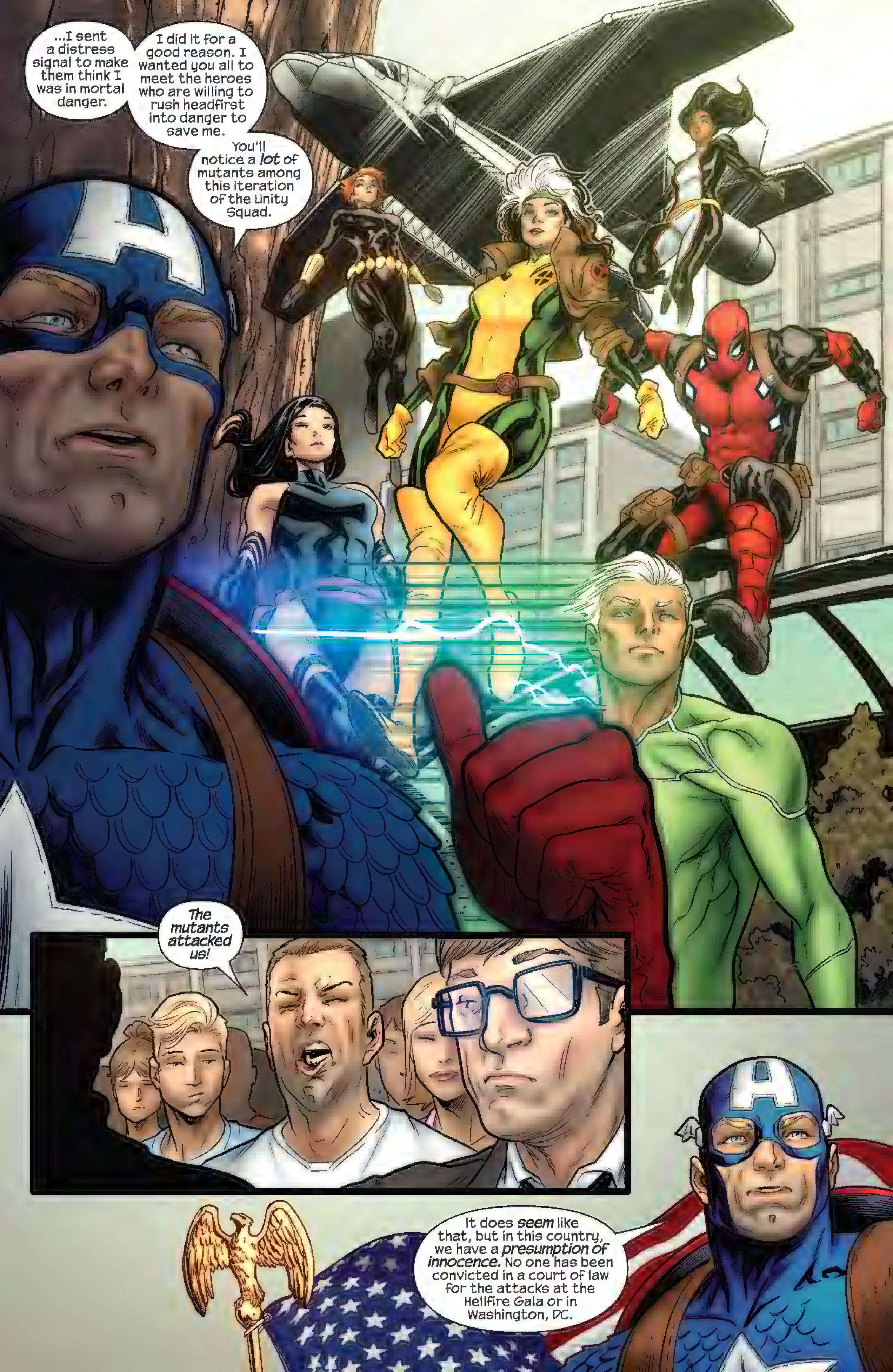
3

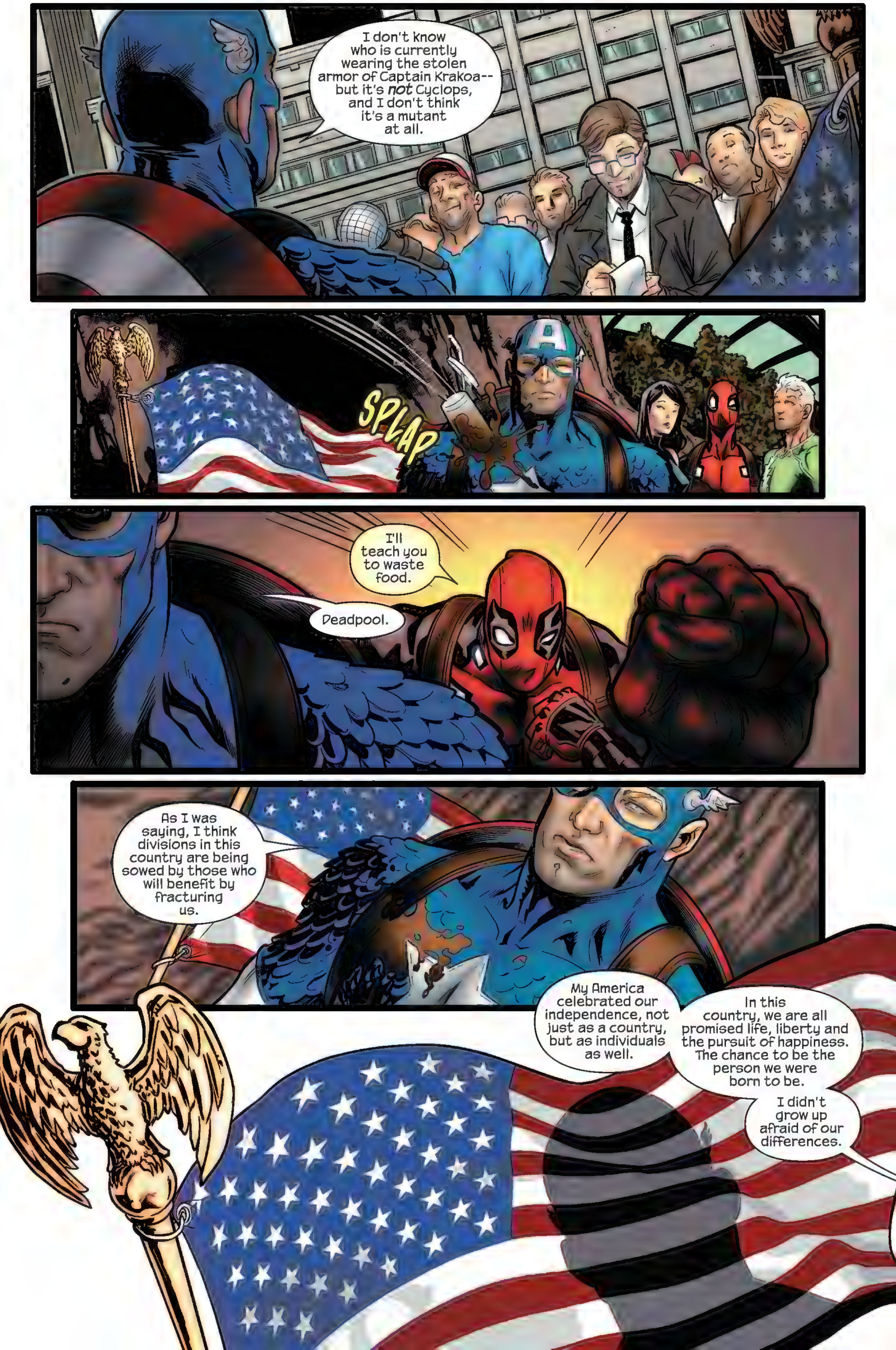

Ellis Island.
BLAMM
Hmm. You sure you're not peeking, Widow?
Not since I put on the blindfold.
Nothing sexier than a woman with a blindfold and a sniper rifle.
Stop talking, Deadpool.
We made a mistake asking Captain America to come off the front lines.
Imagine whoever is running around dressed as Captain Krakoa kills him--we won't just be fighting Orchis, we'll be fighting *everyone!*
Steve's in trouble, y'all--he just sent another distress code!
Catch up with me as fast as you can!

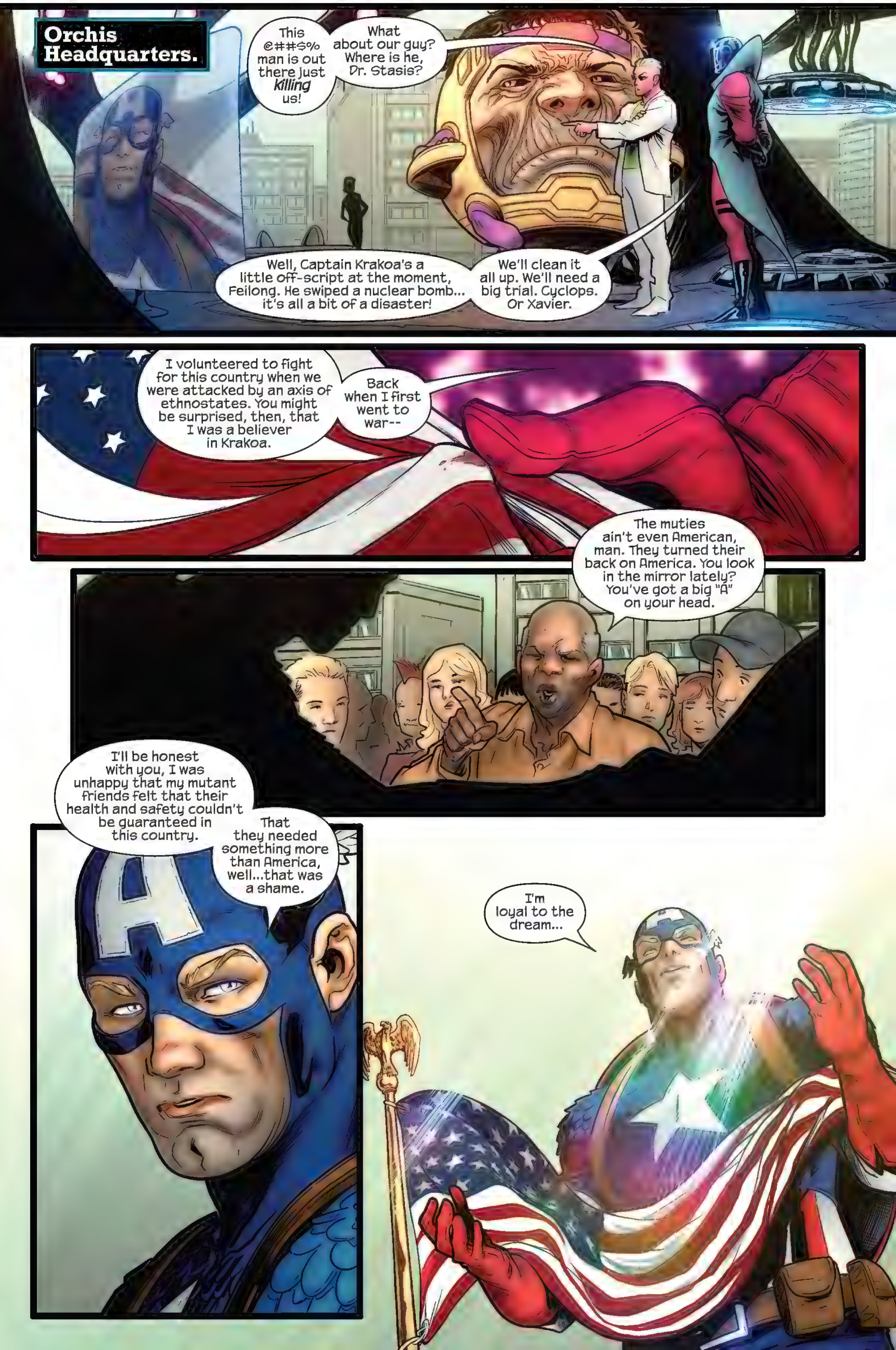

"Catch up with you"?! Puhlease!
Ah didn't know this was a race, Quicksilver. Don't let me slow you down.

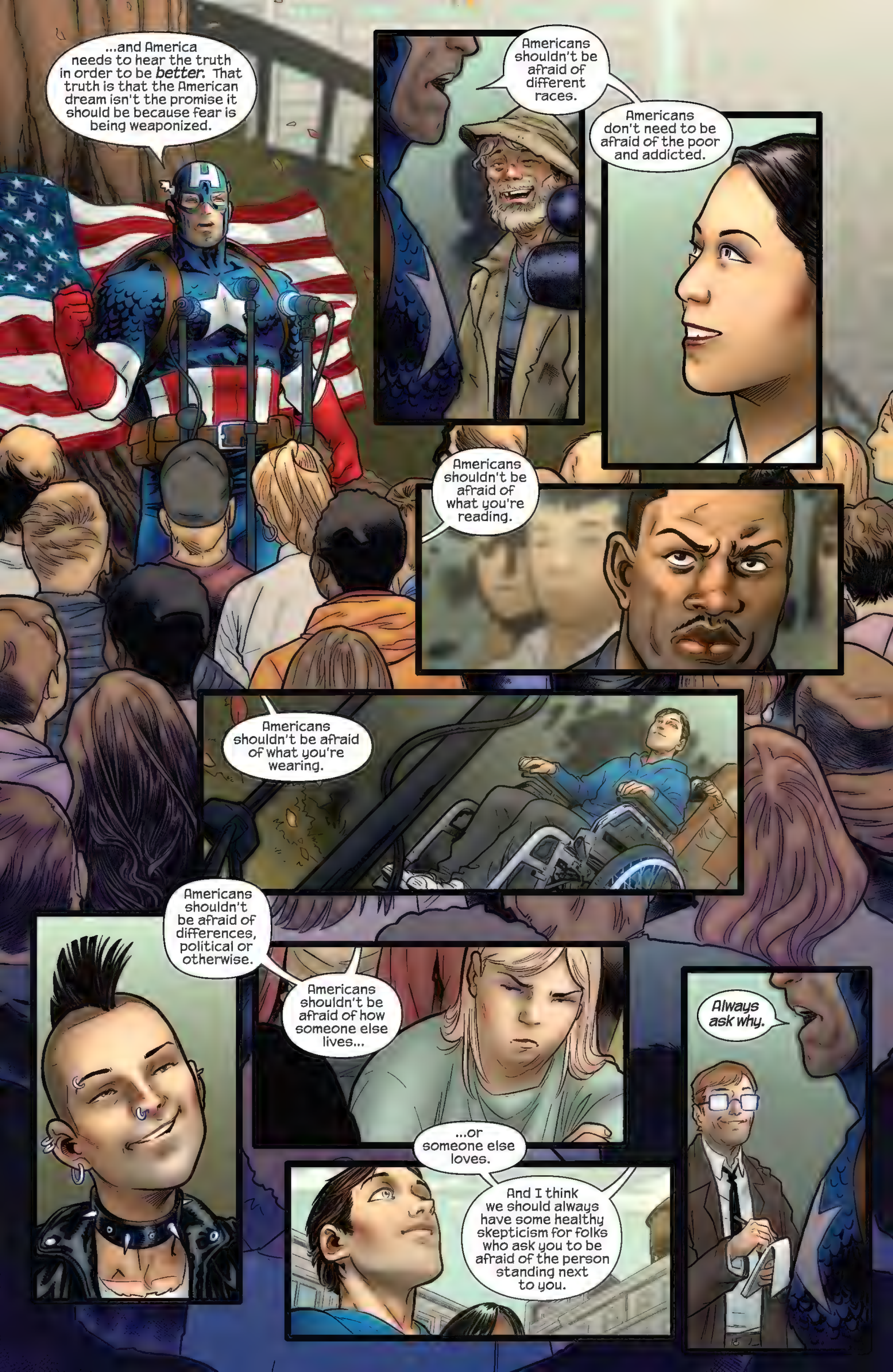

I've got eyes on Cap, and--*uh-oh*--this is worse than I feared.

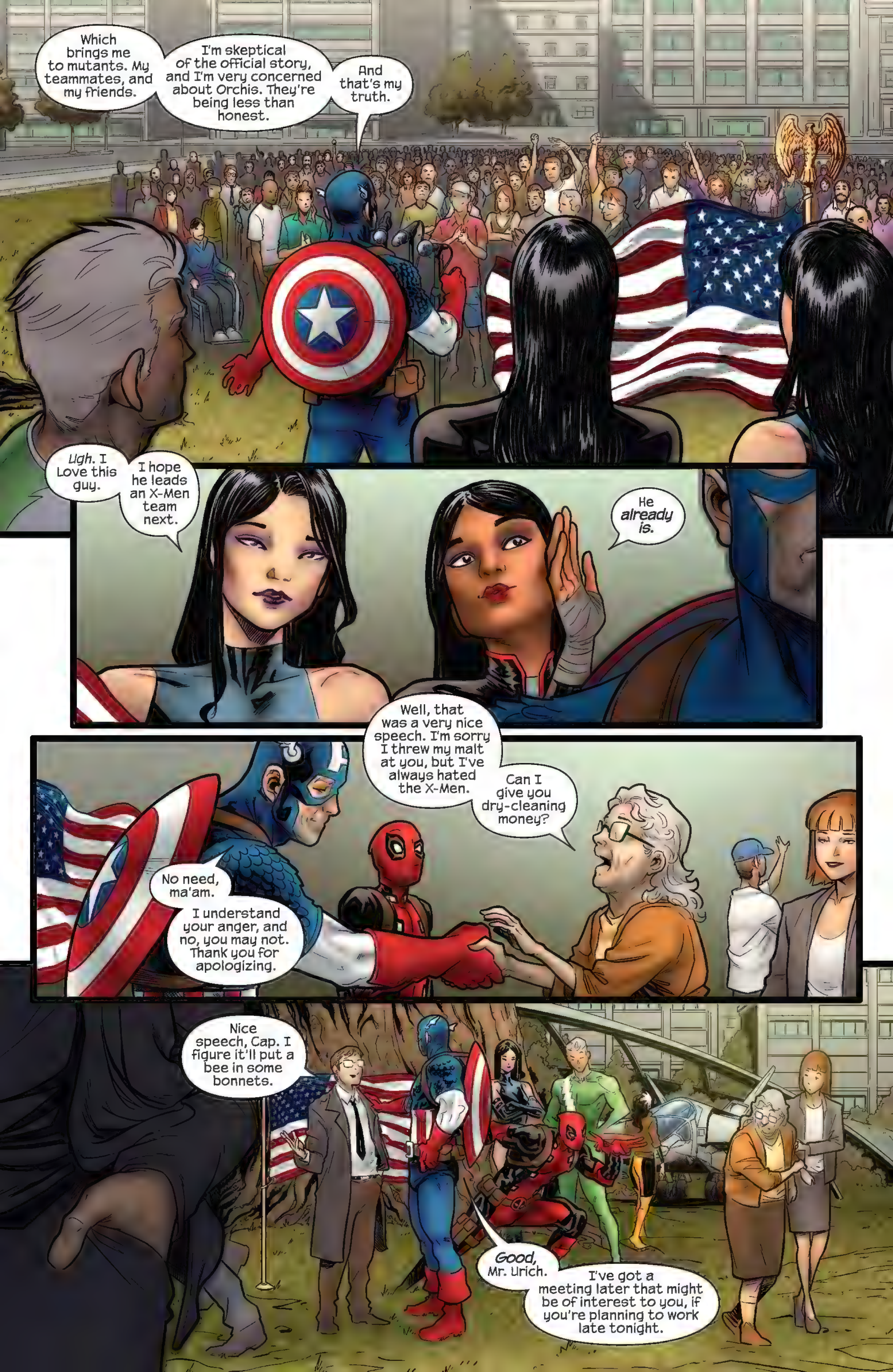

Humans like their symbolism.
Captain America decided to call a press conference at the burned-out former home of the X-Men.
An Orchis base had been stationed nearby. Only one man could destroy it by speaking his mind.
Good afternoon. My name is Steve Rogers, but I think most folks know me better as Captain America.
I just did something I have always told my fellow Avengers would get them kicked off the team...

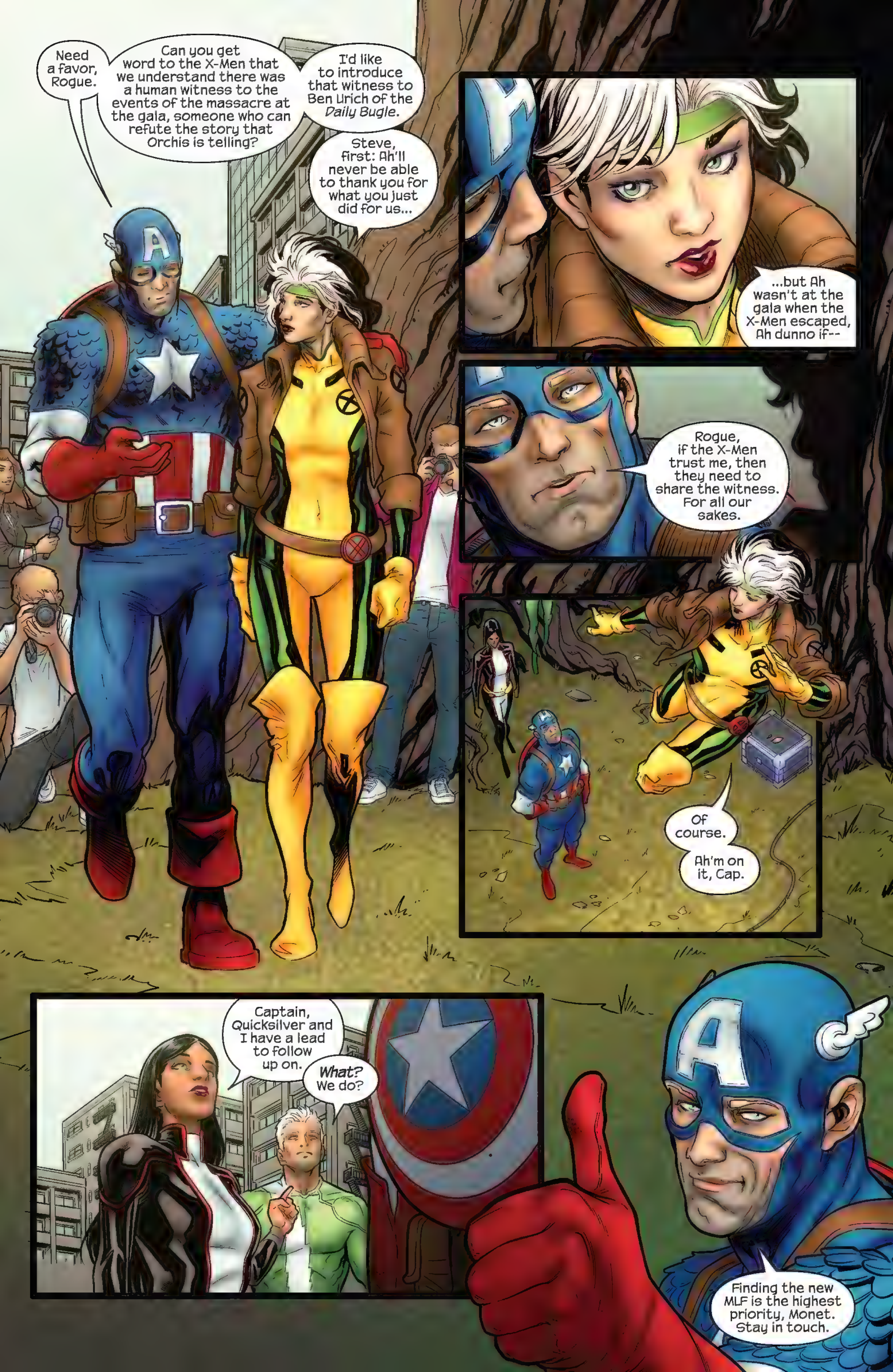

...I sent a distress signal to make them think I was in mortal danger.
I did it for a good reason. I wanted you all to meet the heroes who are willing to rush headfirst into danger to save me.
You'll notice a *lot* of mutants among this iteration of the Unity Squad.
The mutants attacked us!
It does *seem* like that, but in this country, we have a *presumption of innocence.* No one has been convicted in a court of law for the attacks at the Hellfire Gala or in Washington, DC.

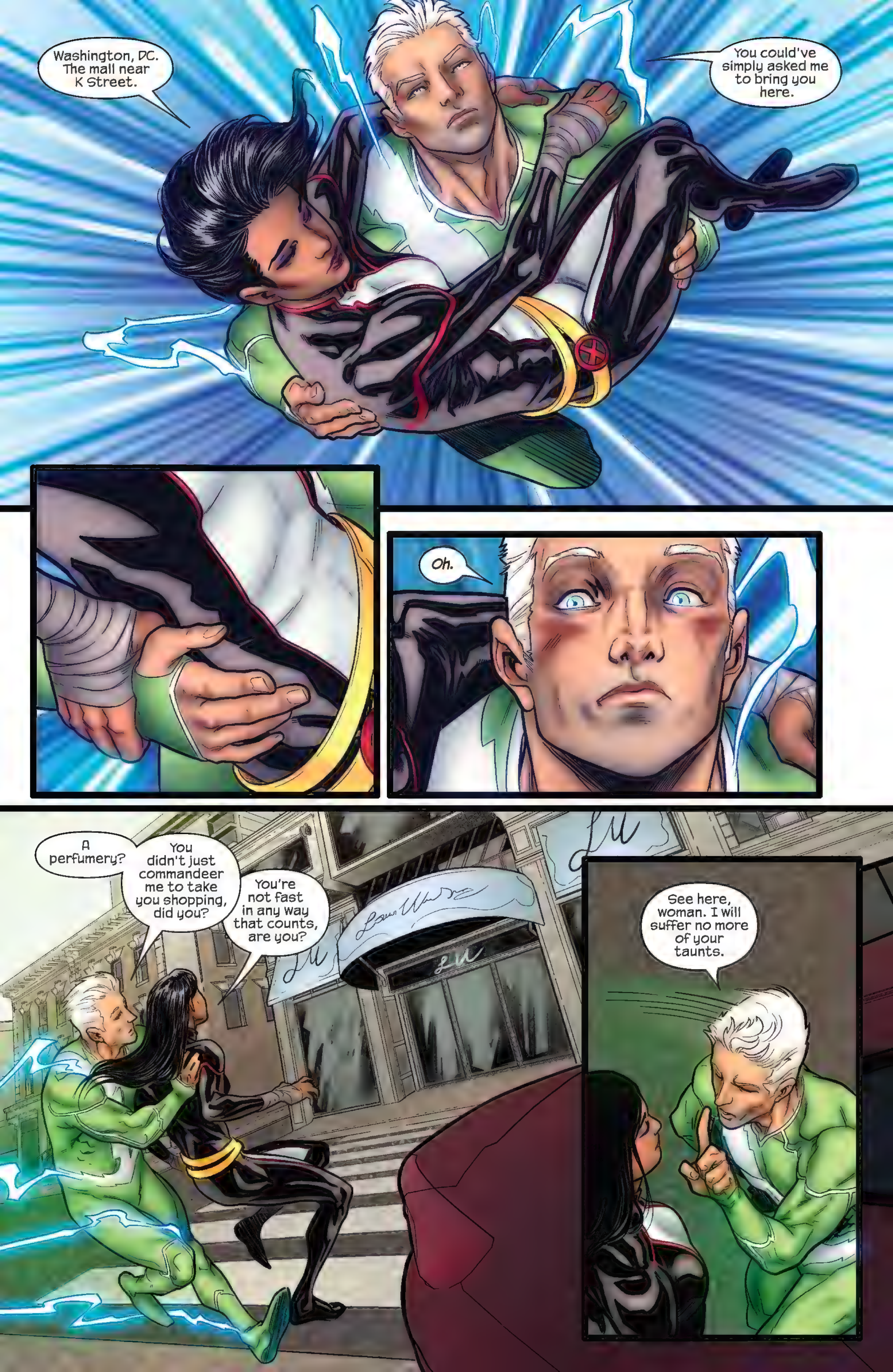

I don't know who is currently wearing the stolen armor of Captain Krakoa-- but it's *not* Cyclops, and I don't think it's a mutant at all.
SPLAP
I'll teach you to waste food.
Deadpool.
As I was saying, I think divisions in this country are being sowed by those who will benefit by fracturing us.
My America celebrated our independence, not just as a country, but as individuals as well.
In this country, we are all promised life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The chance to be the person we were born to be.
I didn't grow up afraid of our differences.

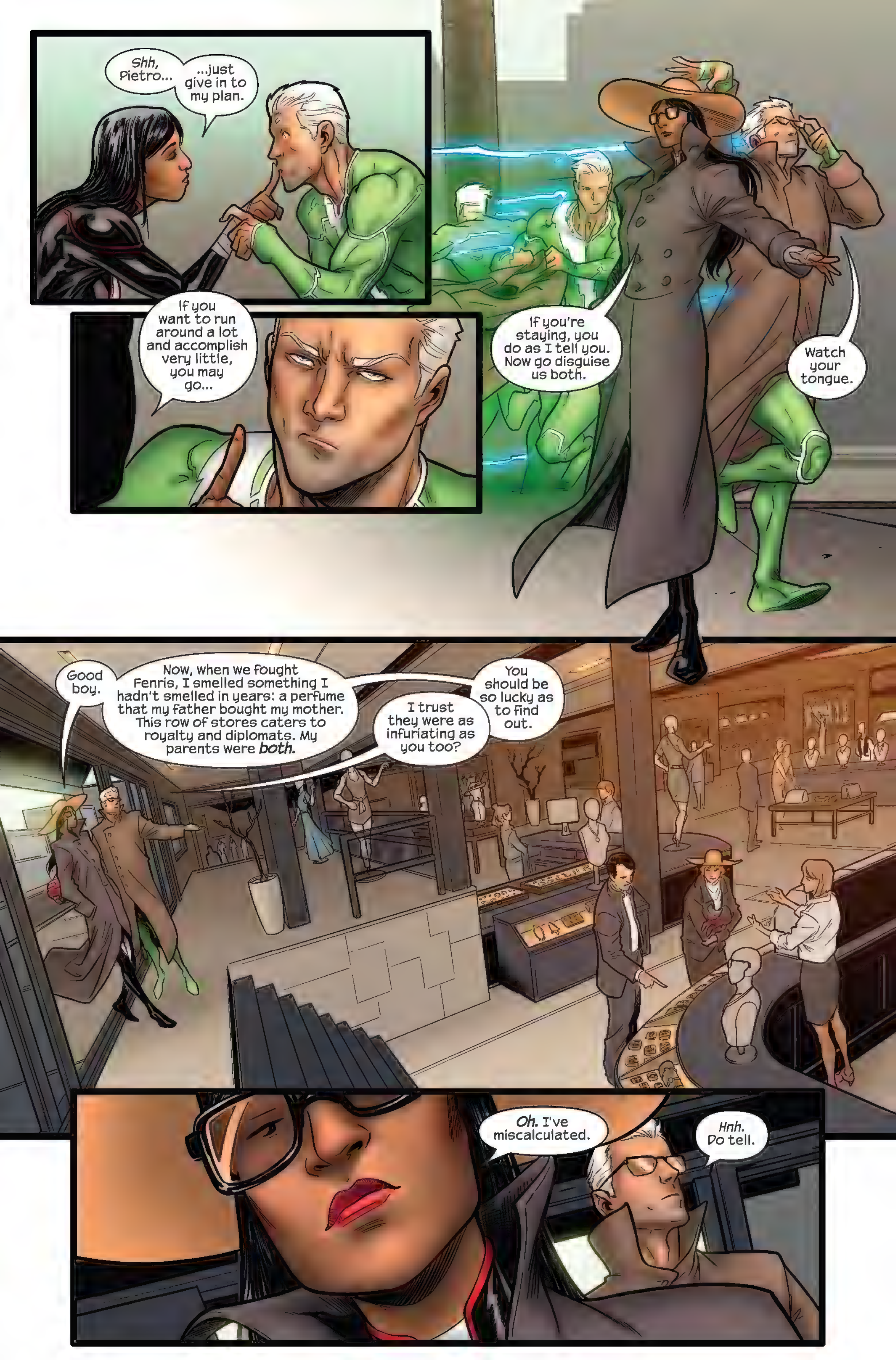

Orchis Headquarters.
This @##$% man is out there just *killing* us!
What about our guy? Where is he, Dr. Stasis?
Well, Captain Krakoa's a little off-script at the moment, Feilong. He swiped a nuclear bomb... it's all a bit of a disaster!
We'll clean it all up. We'll need a big trial. Cyclops. Or Xavier.
I volunteered to fight for this country when we were attacked by an axis of ethnostates. You might be surprised, then, that I was a believer in Krakoa.
Back when I first went to war--
The muties ain't even American, man. They turned their back on America. You look in the mirror lately? You've got a big "A" on your head.
I'll be honest with you, I was unhappy that my mutant friends felt that their health and safety couldn't be guaranteed in this country.
That they needed something more than America, well...that was a shame.
I'm loyal to the dream...

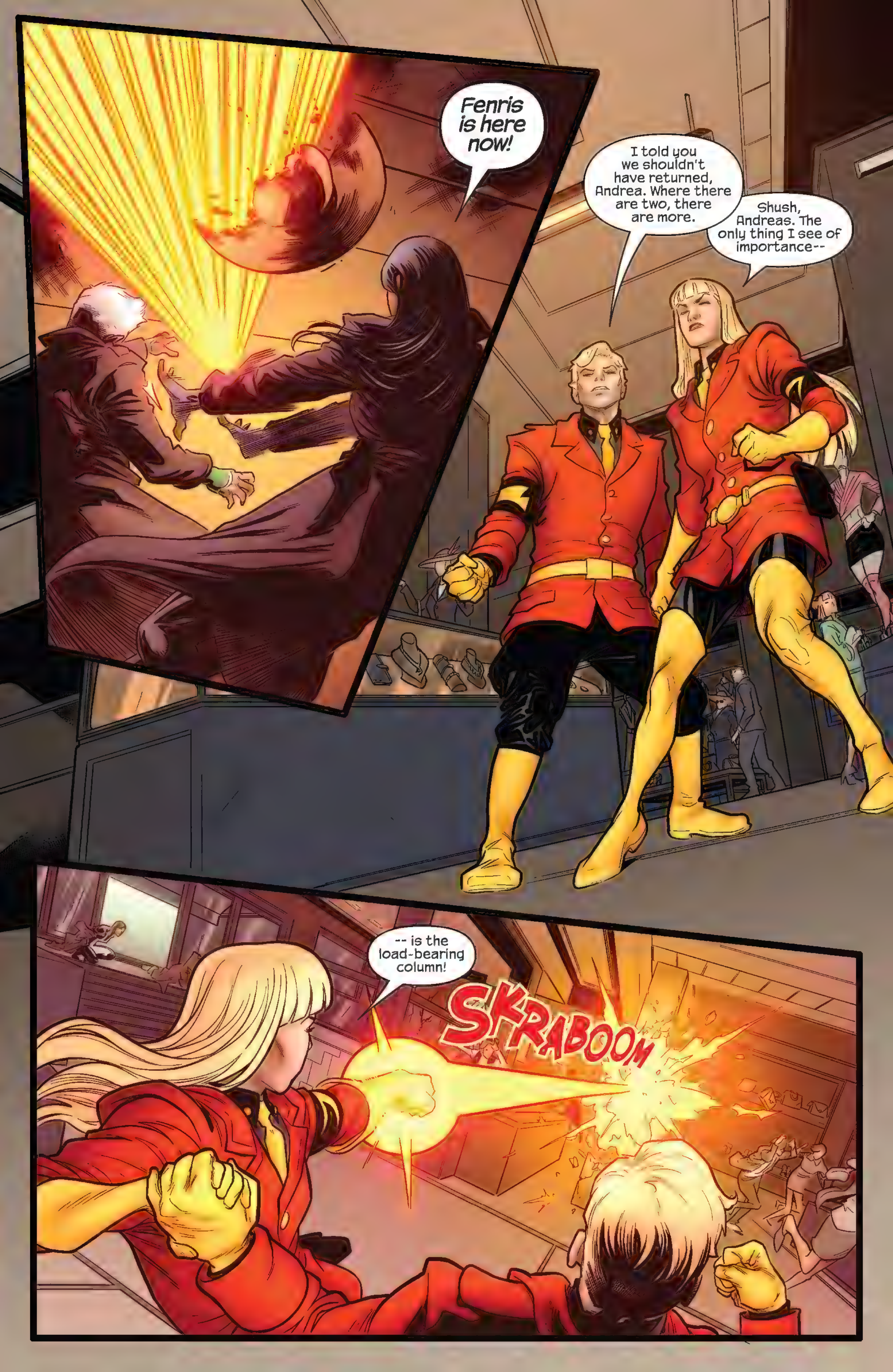

...and America needs to hear the truth in order to be *better.* That truth is that the American dream isn't the promise it should be because fear is being weaponized.
Americans shouldn't be afraid of different races.
Americans don't need to be afraid of the poor and addicted.
Americans shouldn't be afraid of what you're reading.
Americans shouldn't be afraid of what you're wearing.
Americans shouldn't be afraid of differences, political or otherwise.
Americans shouldn't be afraid of how someone else lives...
...or someone else loves.
And I think we should always have some healthy skepticism for folks who ask you to be afraid of the person standing next to you.
Always ask why.

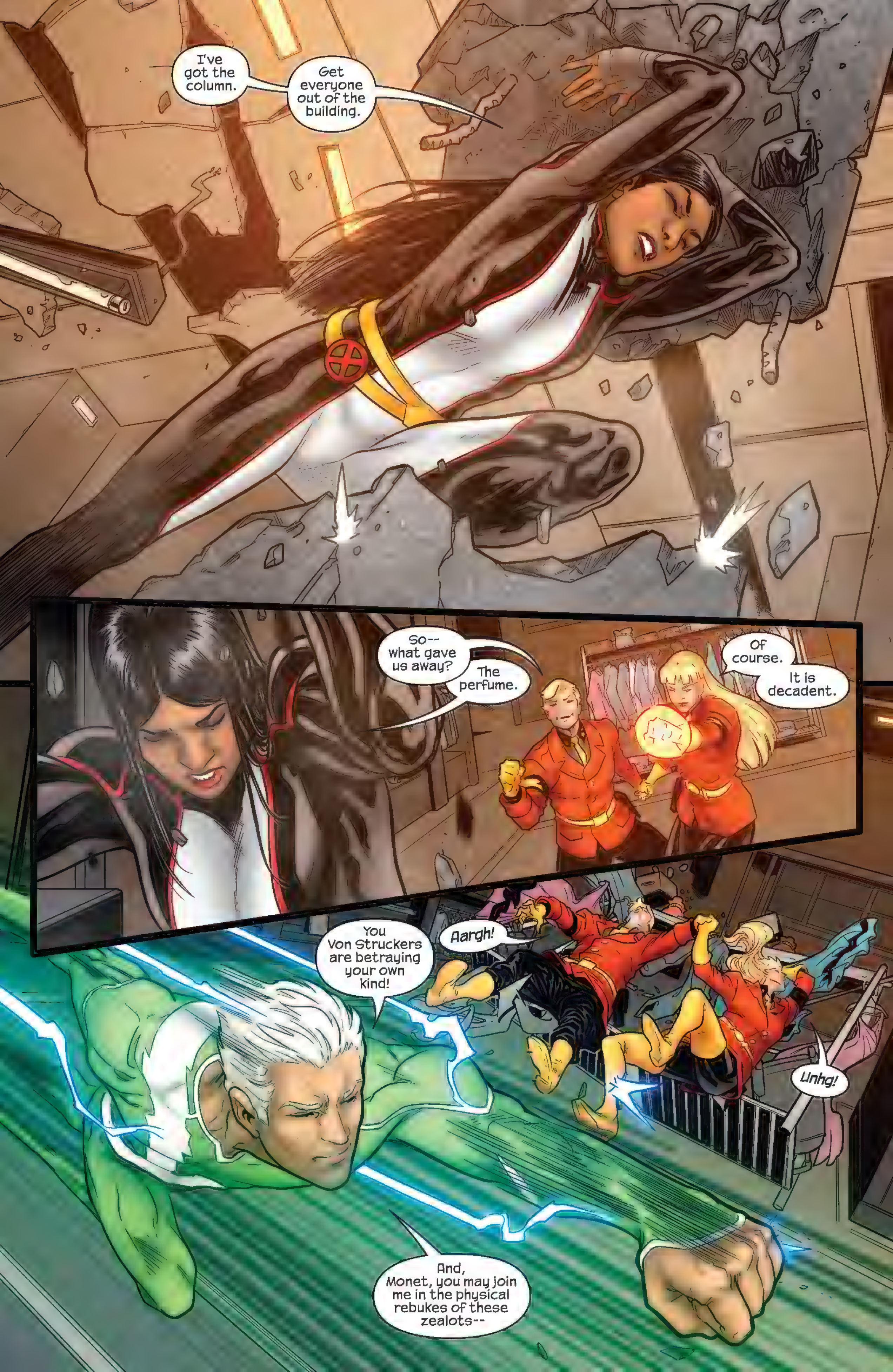

Which brings me to mutants. My teammates, and my friends.
I'm skeptical of the official story, and I'm very concerned about Orchis. They're being less than honest.
And that's my truth.
Ugh. I Love this guy.
I hope he leads an X-Men team next.
He *already* is.
Well, that was a very nice speech. I'm sorry I threw my malt at you, but I've always hated the X-Men.
Can I give you dry-cleaning money?
No need, ma'am.
I understand your anger, and no, you may not. Thank you for apologizing.
Nice speech, Cap. I figure it'll put a bee in some bonnets.
Good, Mr. Urich.
I've got a meeting later that might be of interest to you, if you're planning to work late tonight.

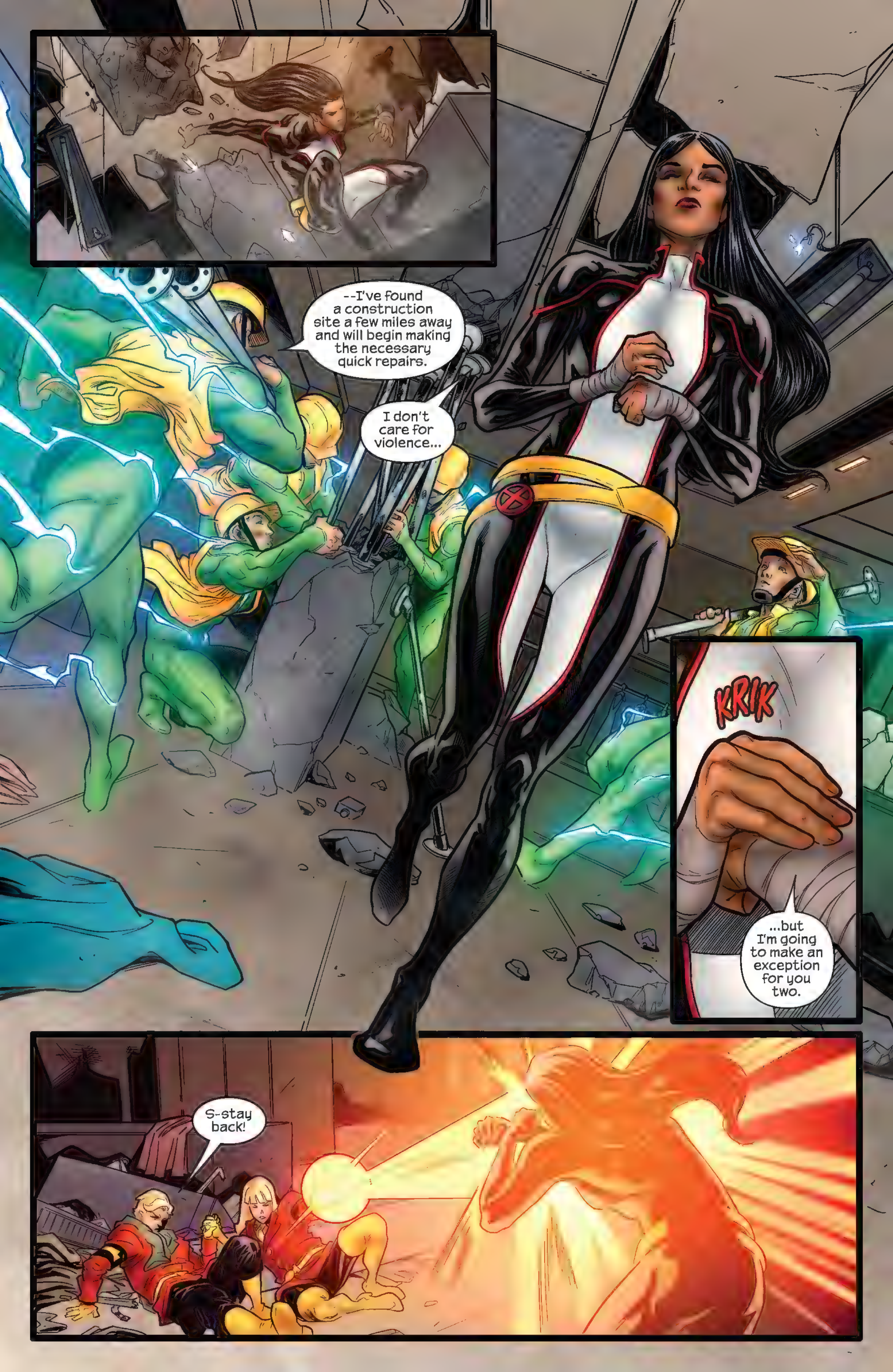

Need a favor, Rogue.
Can you get word to the X-Men that we understand there was a human witness to the events of the massacre at the gala, someone who can refute the story that Orchis is telling?
I'd like to introduce that witness to Ben Urich of the *Daily Bugle*.
Steve, first: Ah'll never be able to thank you for what you just did for us...
...but Ah wasn't at the gala when the X-Men escaped, Ah dunno if--
Rogue, if the X-Men trust me, then they need to share the witness. For all our sakes.
Of course.
Ah'm on it, Cap.
Captain, Quicksilver and I have a lead to follow up on.
What? We do?
Finding the new MLF is the highest priority, Monet. Stay in touch.

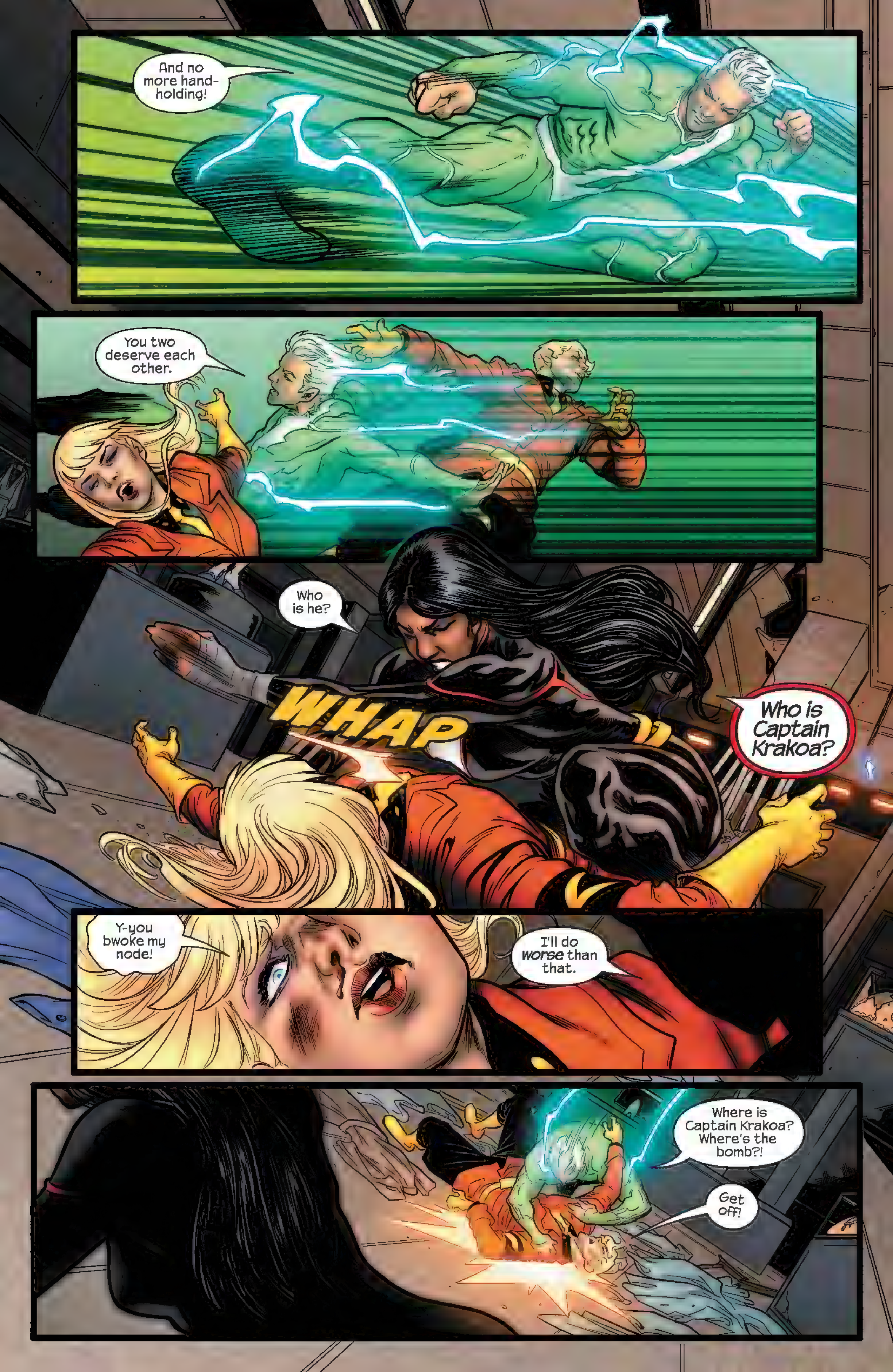

Washington, DC. The mall near K Street.
You could've simply asked me to bring you here.
Oh.
A perfumery?
You didn't just commandeer me to take you shopping, did you?
You're not fast in any way that counts, are you?
See here, woman. I will suffer no more of your taunts.

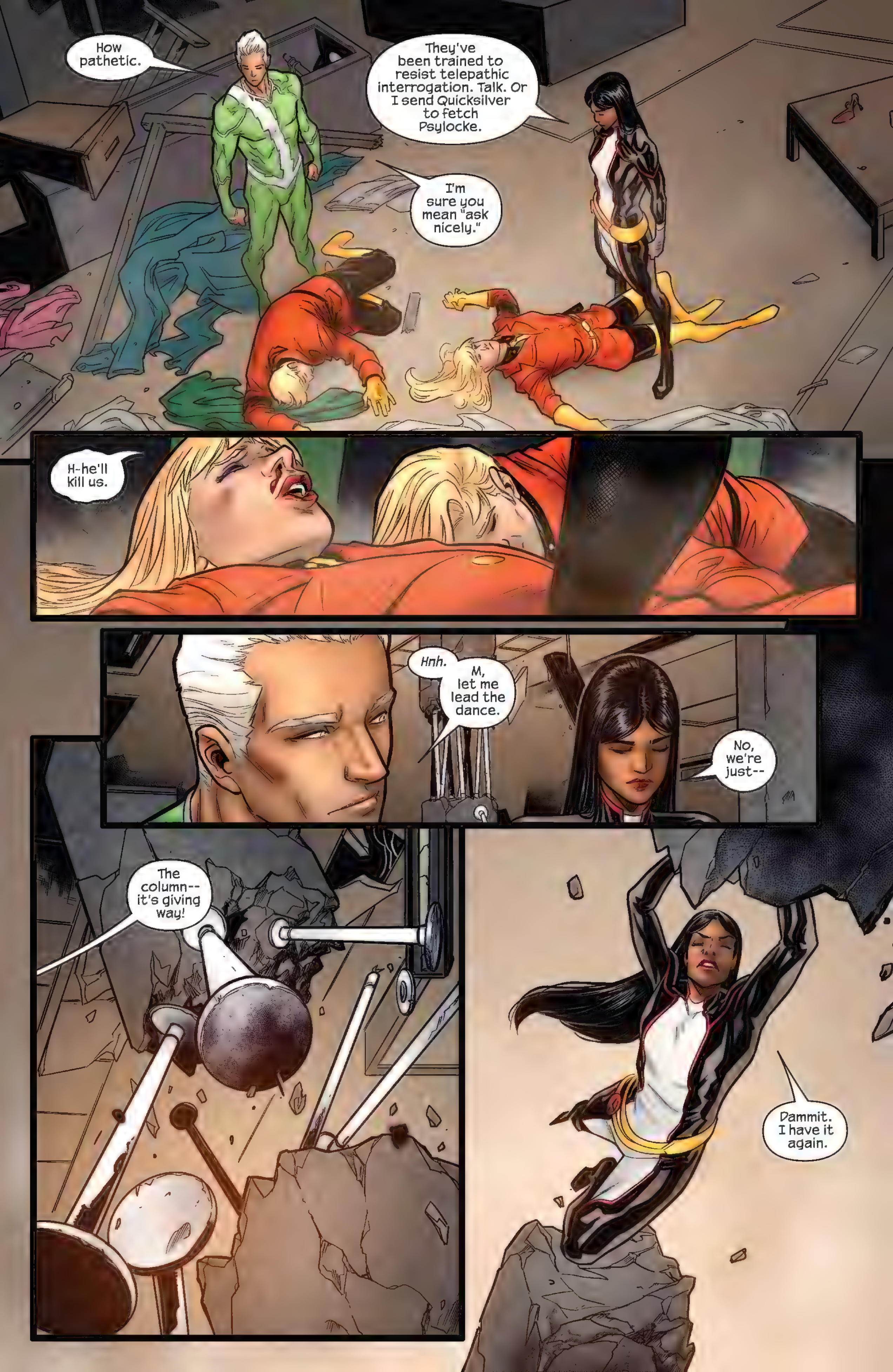

Shh, Pietro...
...just give in to my plan.
If you want to run around a lot and accomplish very little, you may go...
If you're staying, you do as I tell you. Now go disguise us both.
Watch your tongue.
Good boy.
Now, when we fought Fenris, I smelled something I hadn't smelled in years: a perfume that my father bought my mother. This row of stores caters to royalty and diplomats. My parents were *both.*
I trust they were as infuriating as you too?
You should be so lucky as to find out.
Oh. I've miscalculated.
Hnh. Do tell.

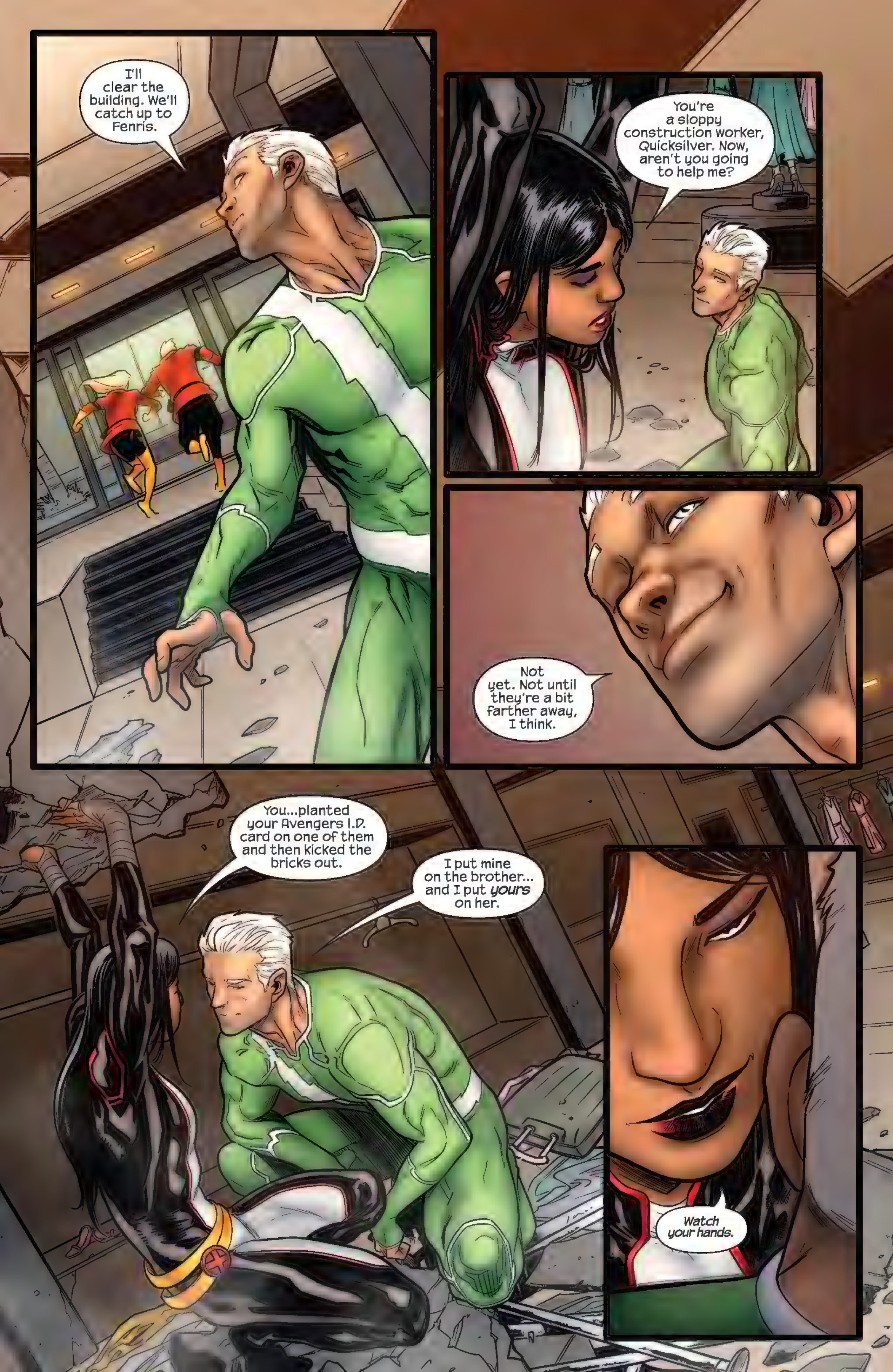

Fenris is here now!
I told you we shouldn't have returned, Andrea. Where there are two, there are more.
Shush, Andreas. The only thing I see of importance--
-- is the load-bearing column!
SKRABOOM

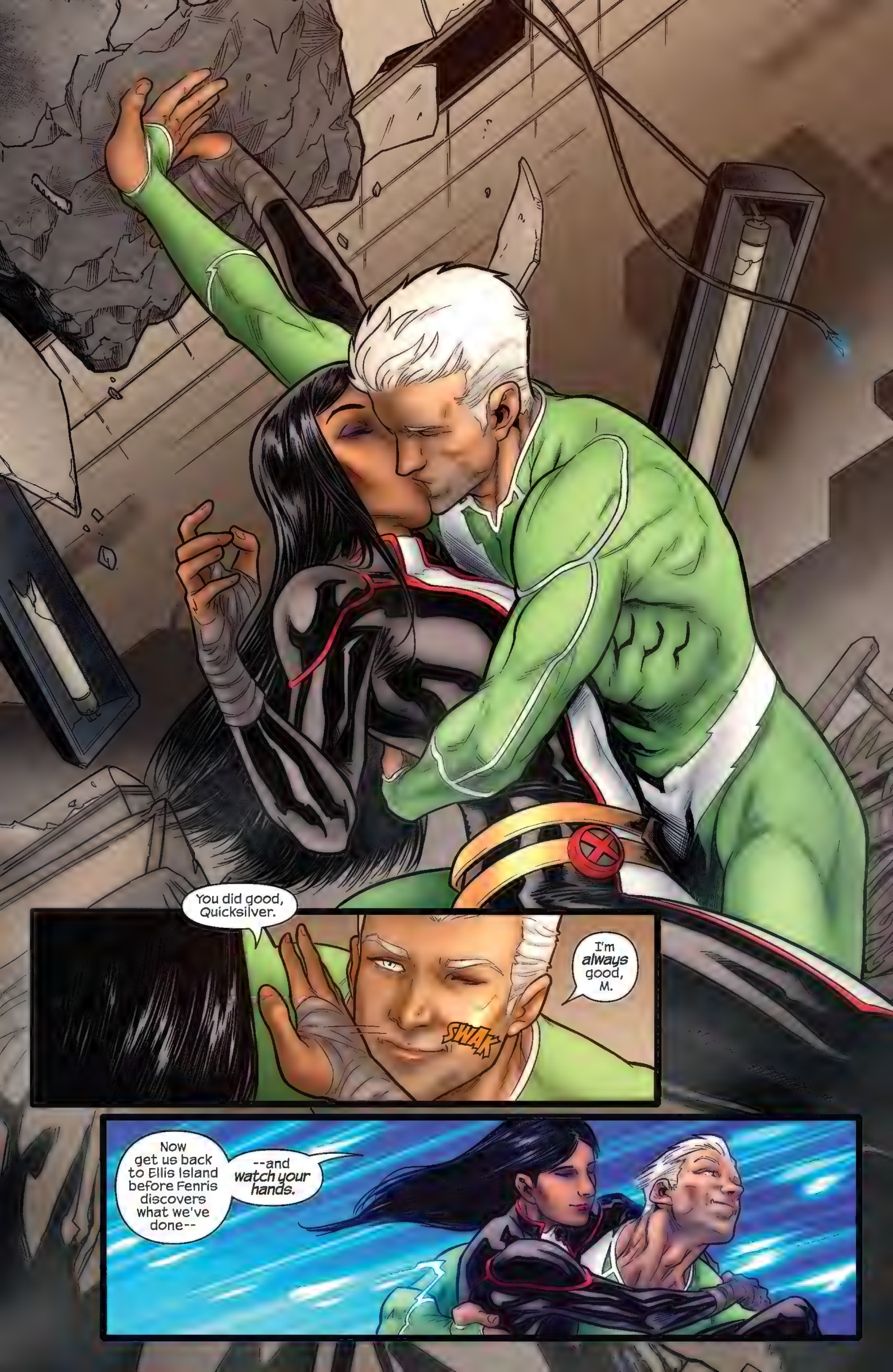

I've got the column.
Get everyone out of the building.
So-- what gave us away?
The perfume.
Of course.
It is decadent.
You Von Struckers are betraying your own kind!
Aargh!
Unhg!
And, Monet, you may join me in the physical rebukes of these zealots--

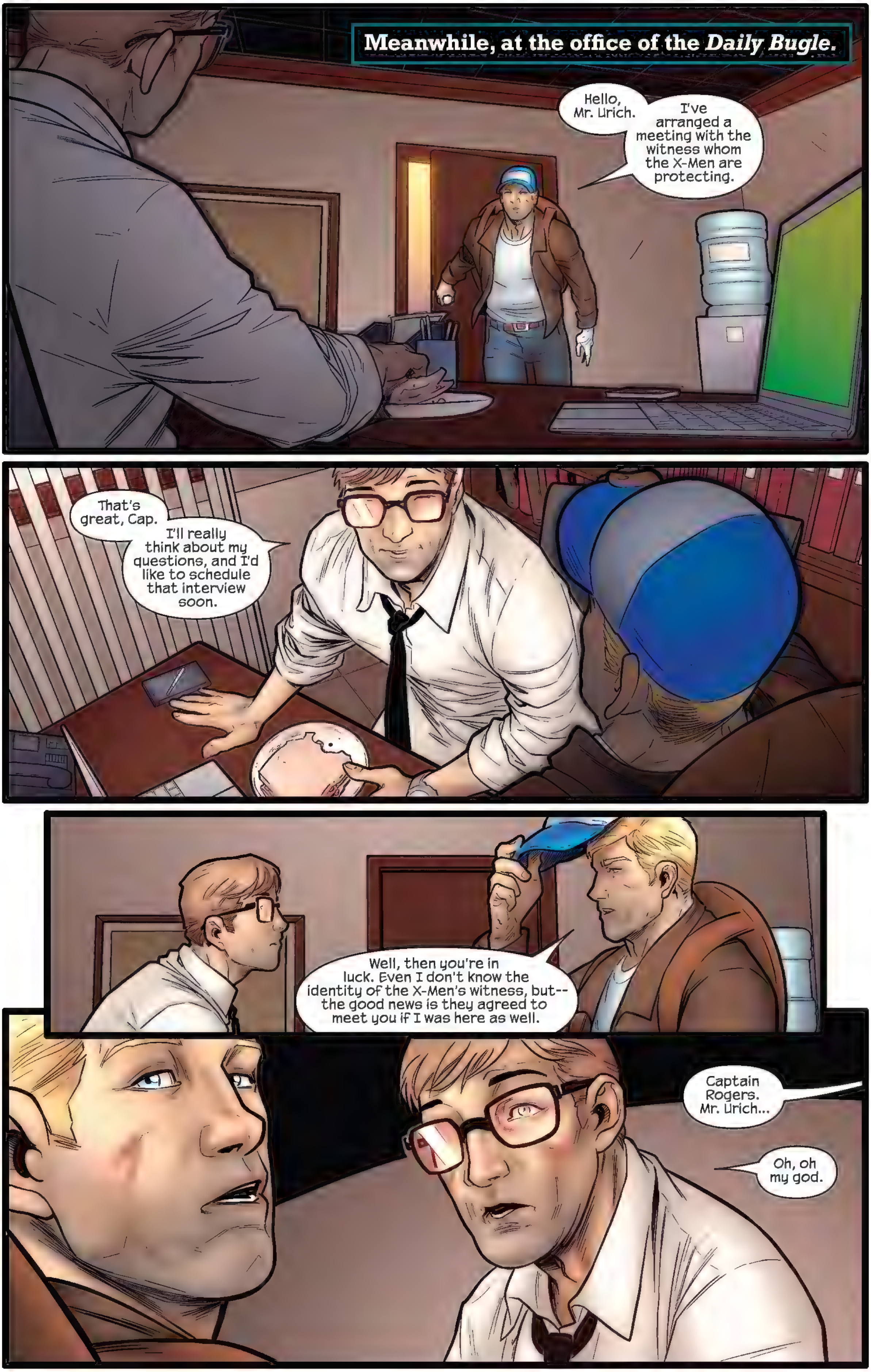

--I've found a construction site a few miles away and will begin making the necessary quick repairs.
I don't care for violence...
KRIK
...but I'm going to make an exception for you two.
S-stay back!

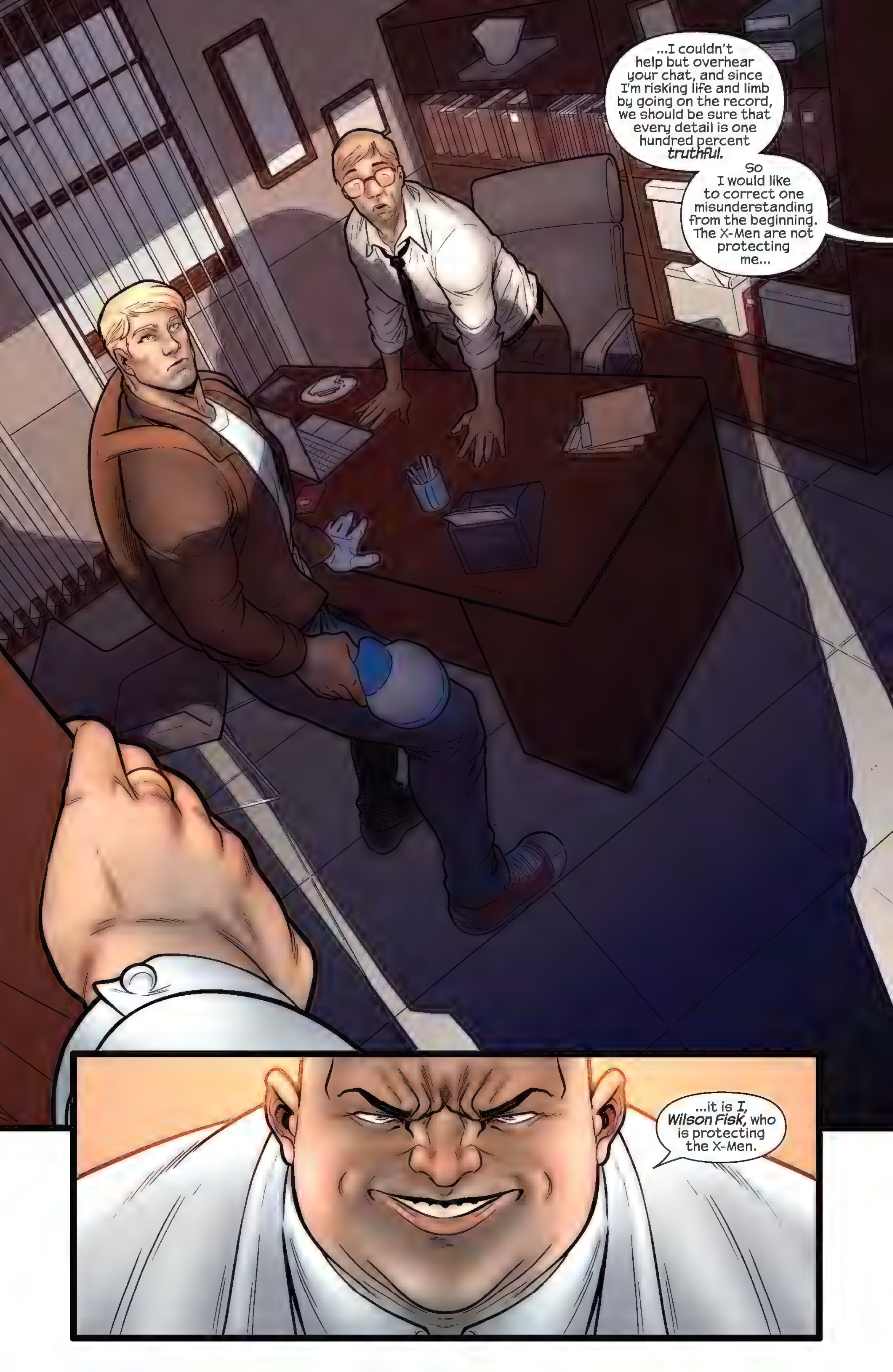

And no more hand-holding!
You two deserve each other.
Who is he?
WHAP
Who is Captain Krakoa?
Y-you bwoke my node!
I'll do *worse* than that.
Where is Captain Krakoa? Where's the bomb?!
Get off!


How pathetic.
They've been trained to resist telepathic interrogation. Talk. Or I send Quicksilver to fetch Psylocke.
I'm sure you mean "ask nicely."
H-he'll kill us.
Hnh.
M, let me lead the dance.
No, we're just--
The column-- it's giving way!
Dammit. I have it again.


I'll clear the building. We'll catch up to Fenris.
You're a sloppy construction worker, Quicksilver. Now, aren't you going to help me?
Not yet. Not until they're a bit farther away, I think.
You...planted your Avengers I.D. card on one of them and then kicked the bricks out.
I put mine on the brother... and I put *yours* on her.
Watch your hands.


You did good, Quicksilver.
I'm *always* good, M.
SWAK
Now get us back to Ellis Island before Fenris discovers what we've done--
--and *watch your hands.*

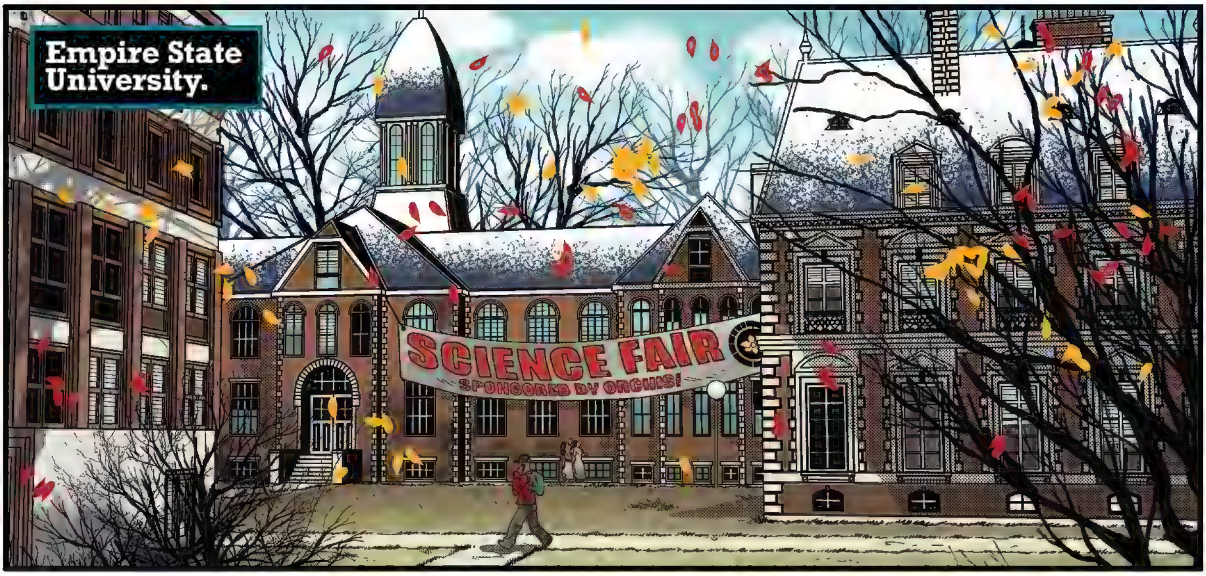

Meanwhile, at the office of the *Daily Bugle.*
Hello, Mr. Urich.
I've arranged a meeting with the witness whom the X-Men are protecting.
That's great, Cap.
I'll really think about my questions, and I'd like to schedule that interview soon.
Well, then you're in luck. Even I don't know the identity of the X-Men's witness, but-- the good news is they agreed to meet you if I was here as well.
Captain Rogers. Mr. Urich...
Oh, oh my god.

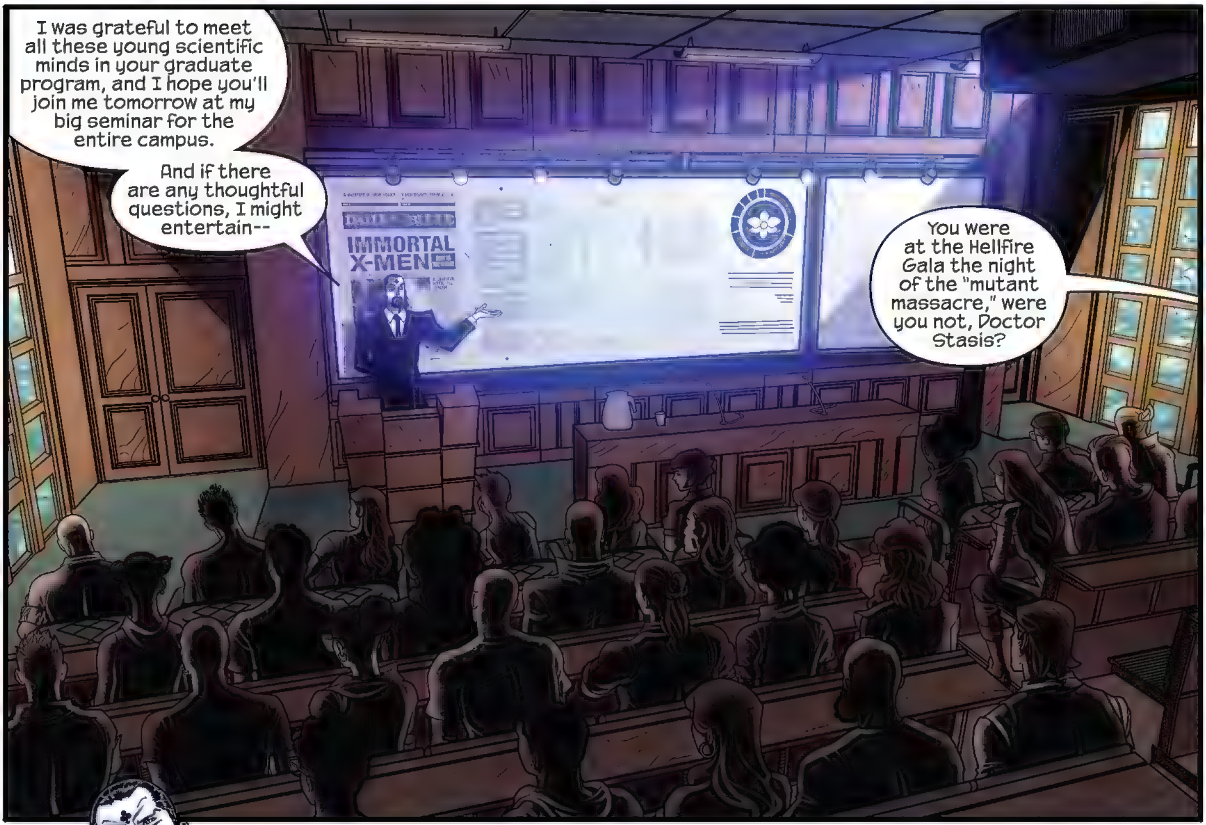

...I couldn't help but overhear your chat, and since I'm risking life and limb by going on the record, we should be sure that every detail is one hundred percent *truthful.*
So I would like to correct one misunderstanding from the beginning. The X-Men are not protecting me...
...it is *I, Wilson Fisk,* who is protecting the X-Men.

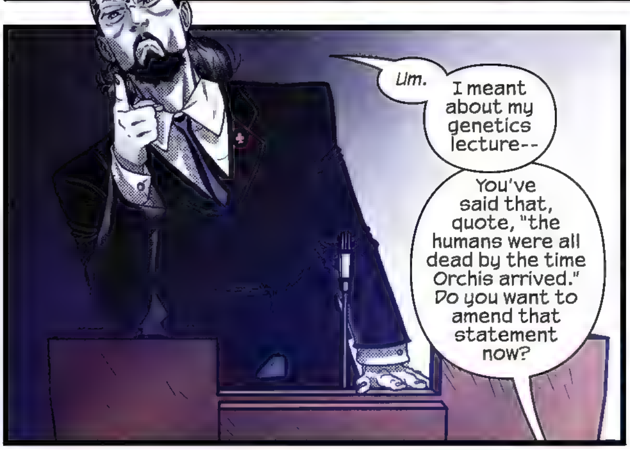
WANTED
CAPTAIN AMERICA
PENANCE
QUICKSILVER
ROGUE
DEADPOOL
PSYLOCKE
YOUR FAVORITE SHOWS... ONLY ON
STARKFLIX
KRAKOA THE MUSICAL
STAY VIGILANT!

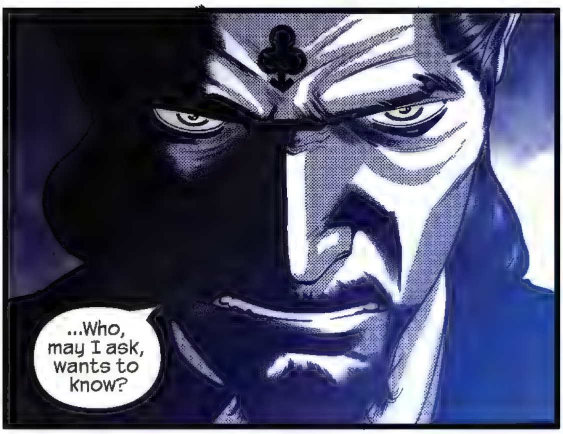
Unmasked!

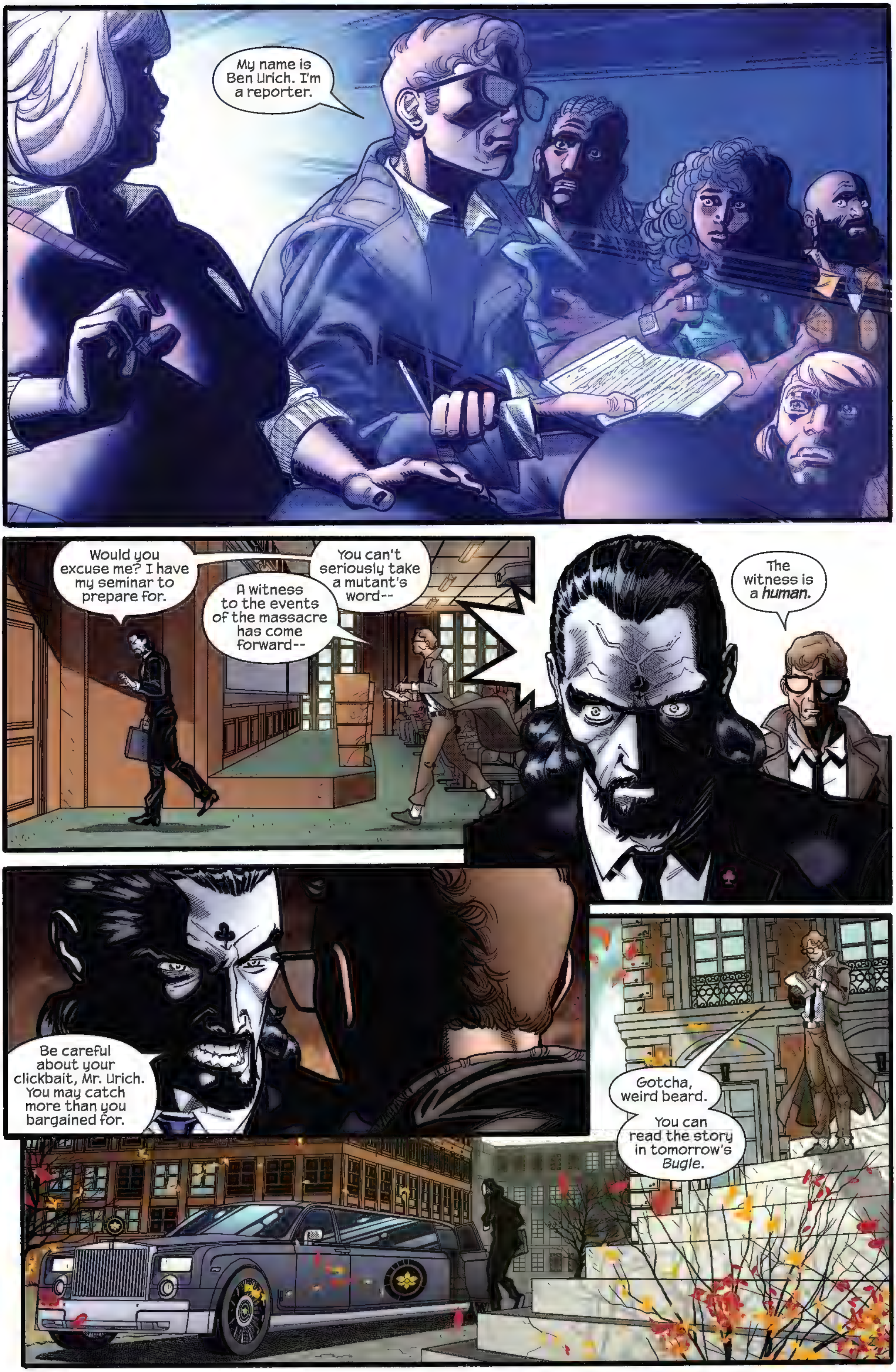
4

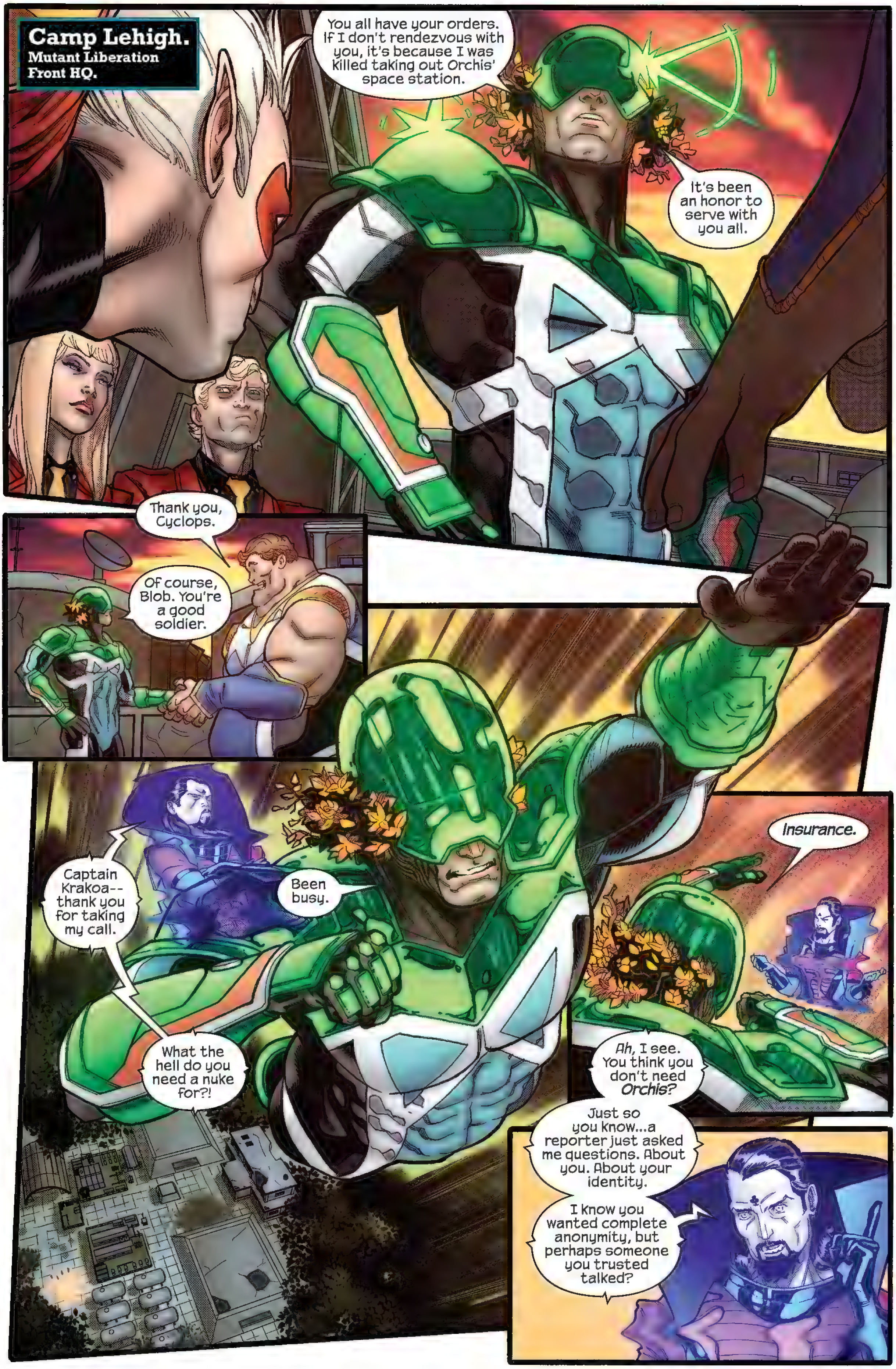

Empire State University.
SCIENCE FAIR
SPONSORED BY ORCHIS!

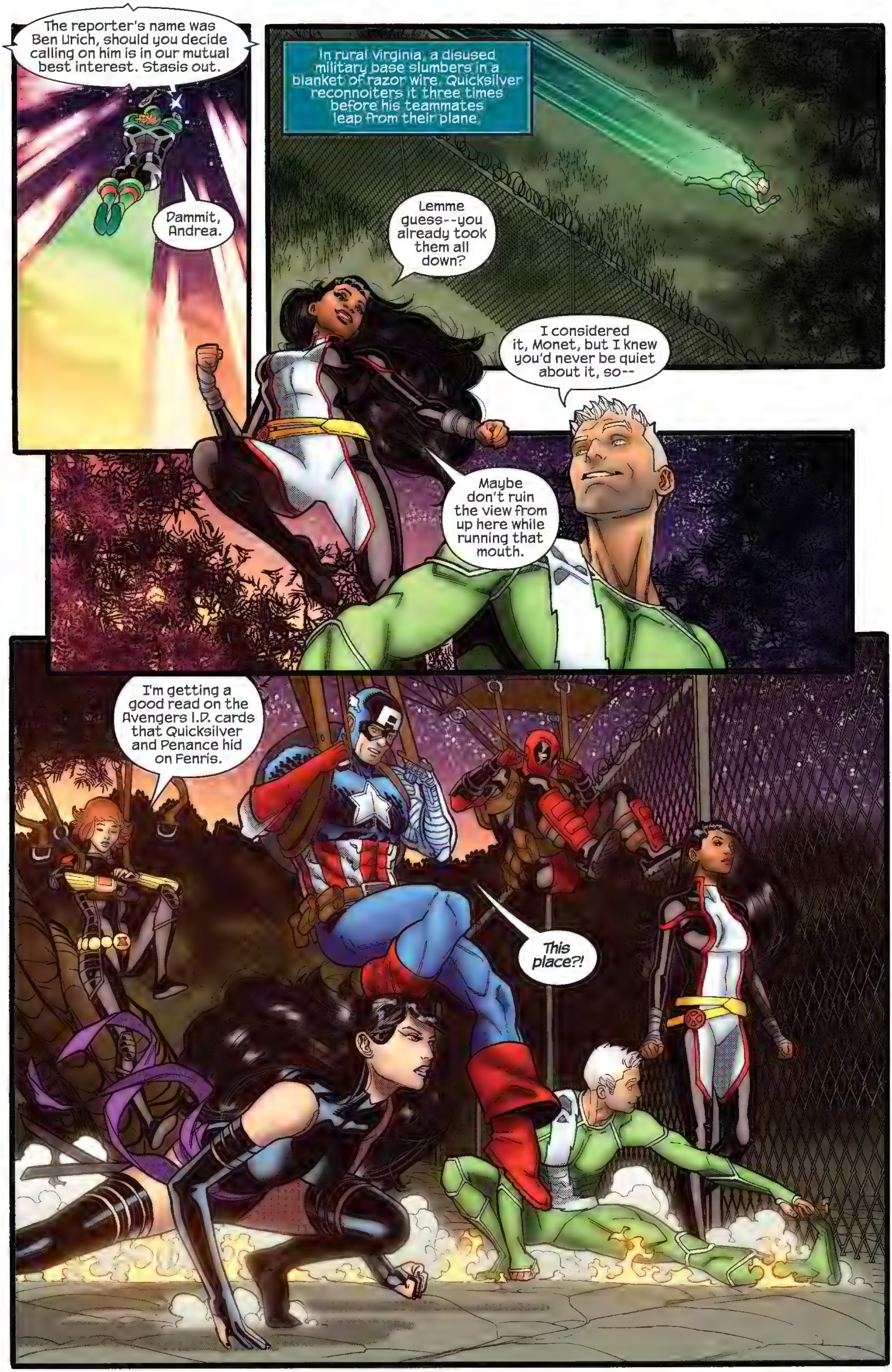

I was grateful to meet all these young scientific minds in your graduate program, and I hope you'll join me tomorrow at my big seminar for the entire campus.
And if there are any thoughtful questions, I might entertain--
DAILY BUGLE
IMMORTAL X-MEN
You were at the Hellfire Gala the night of the "mutant massacre," were you not, Doctor Stasis?

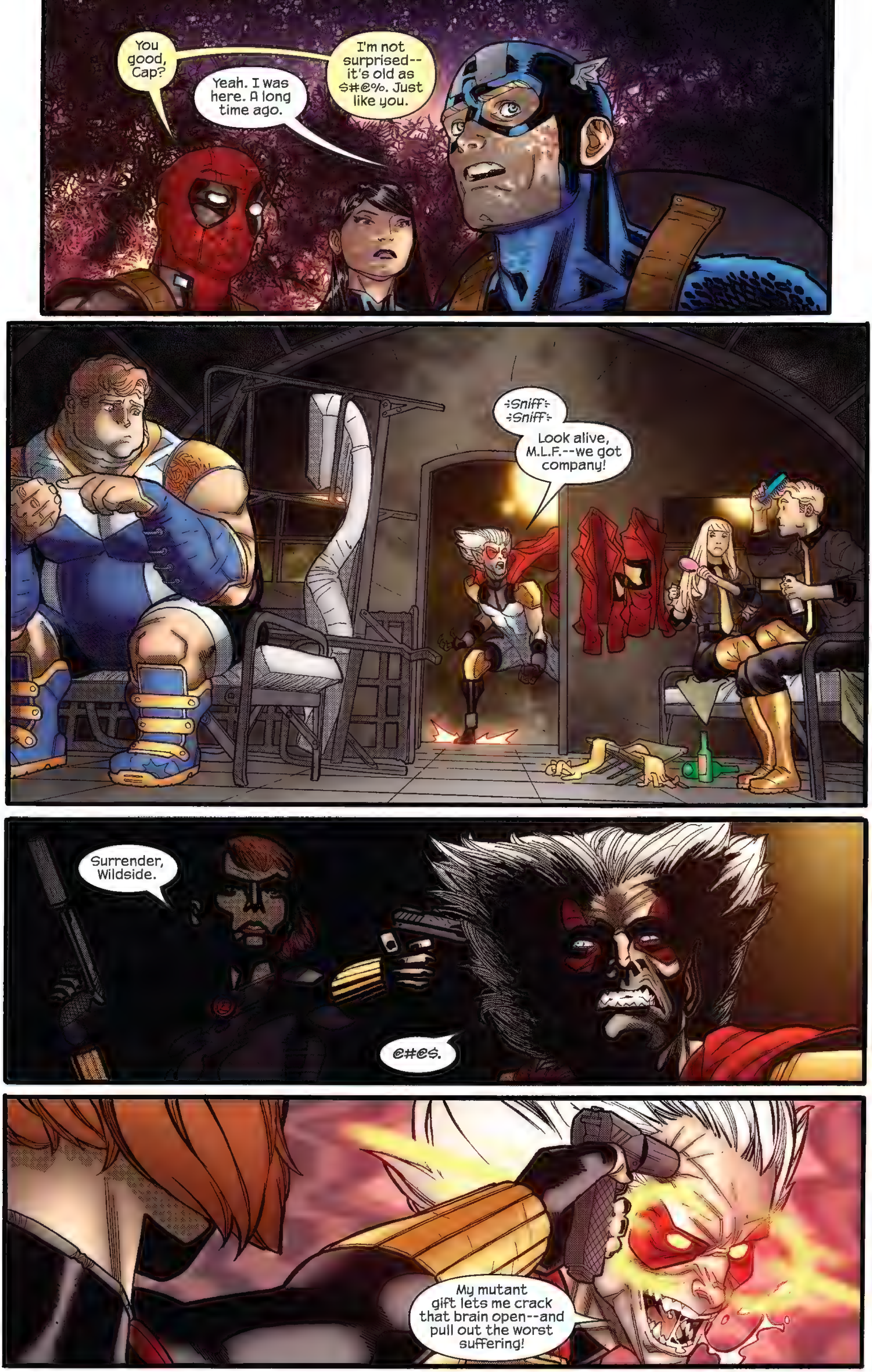

Um.
I meant about my genetics lecture--
You've said that, quote, "the humans were all dead by the time Orchis arrived." Do you want to amend that statement now?

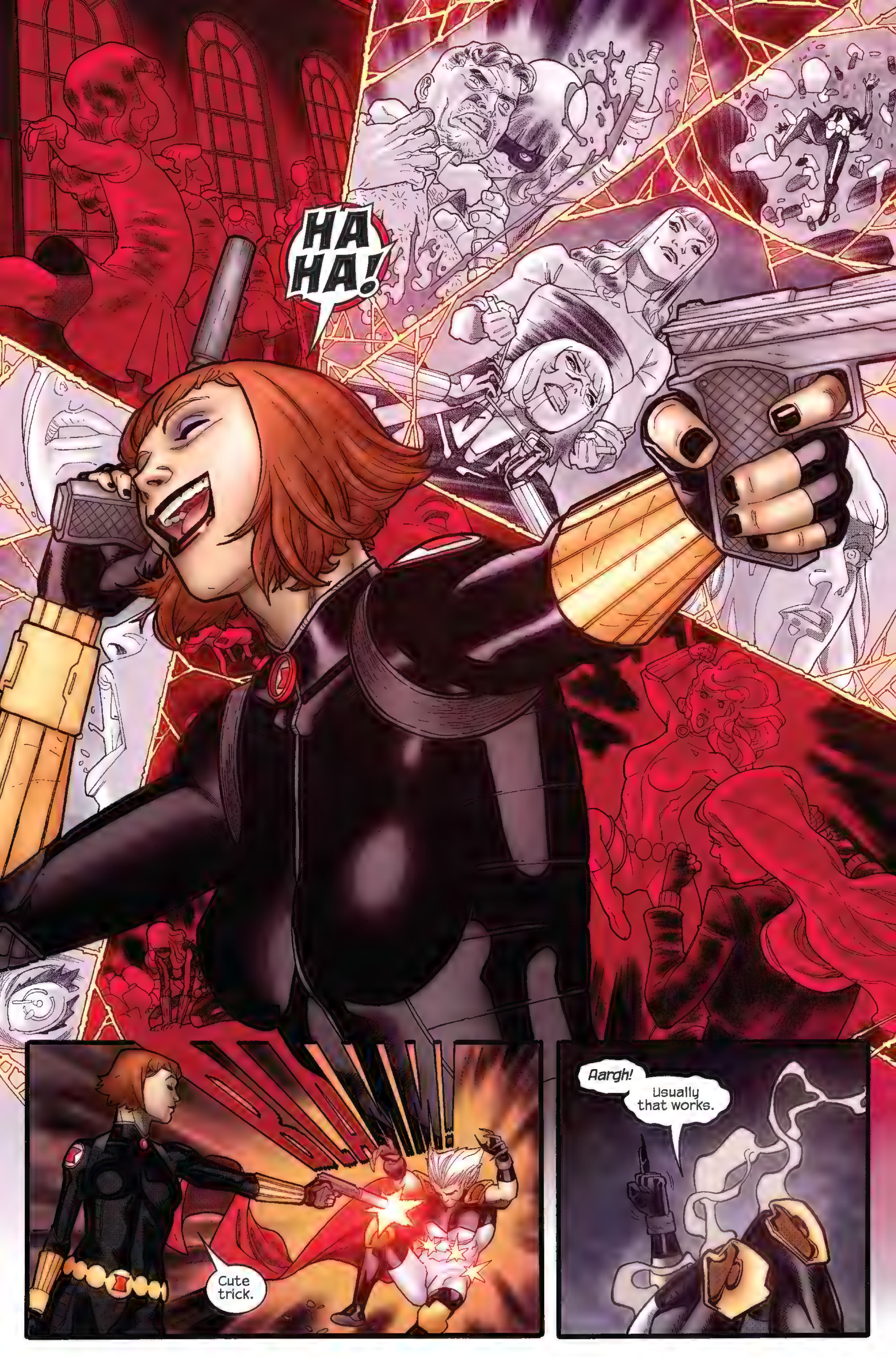

...Who, may I ask, wants to know?

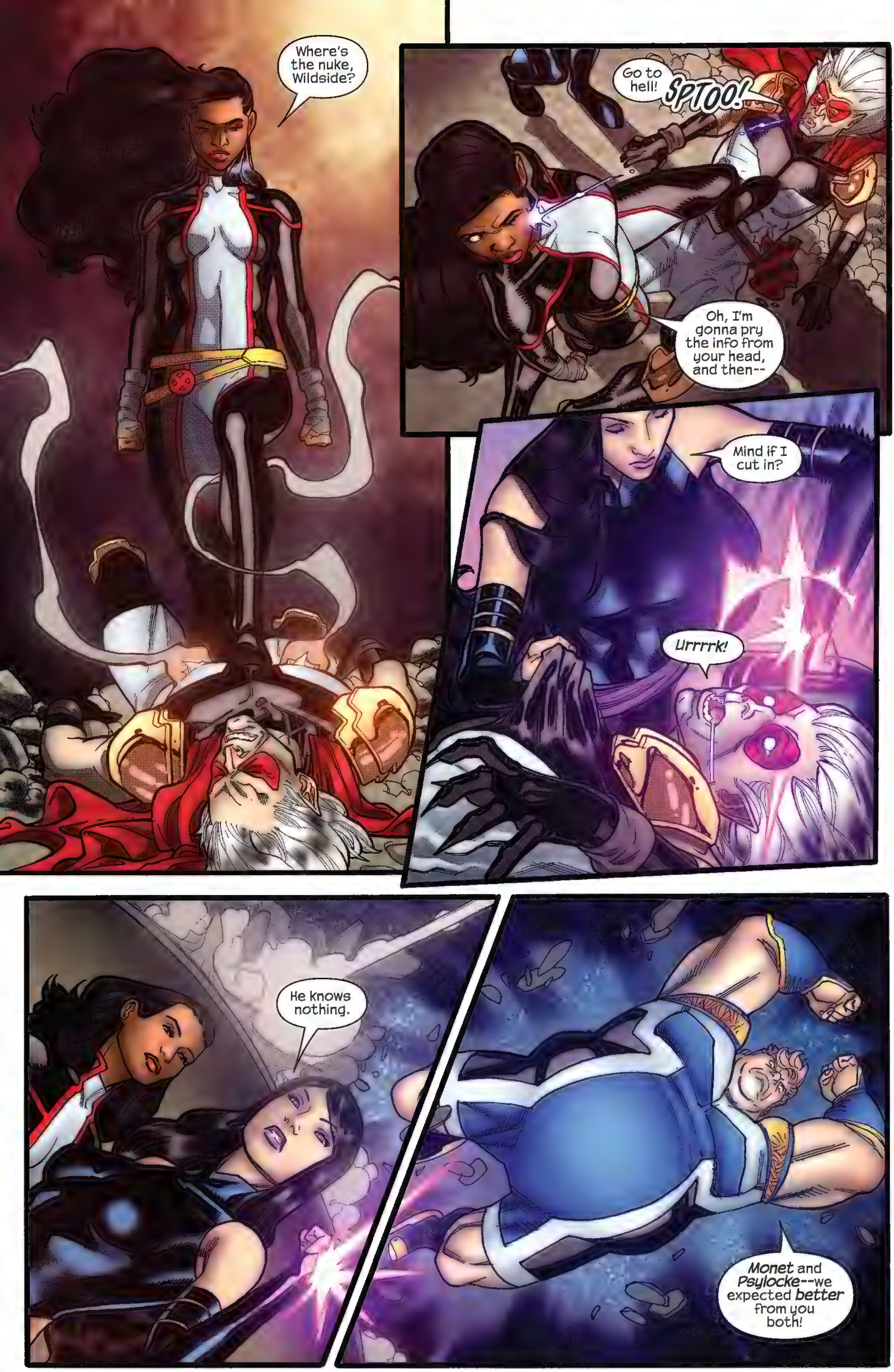

My name is Ben Urich. I'm a reporter.
Would you excuse me? I have my seminar to prepare for.
A witness to the events of the massacre has come forward--
You can't seriously take a mutant's word--
The witness is a *human*.
Be careful about your clickbait, Mr. Urich. You may catch more than you bargained for.
Gotcha, weird beard.
You can read the story in tomorrow's *Bugle*.

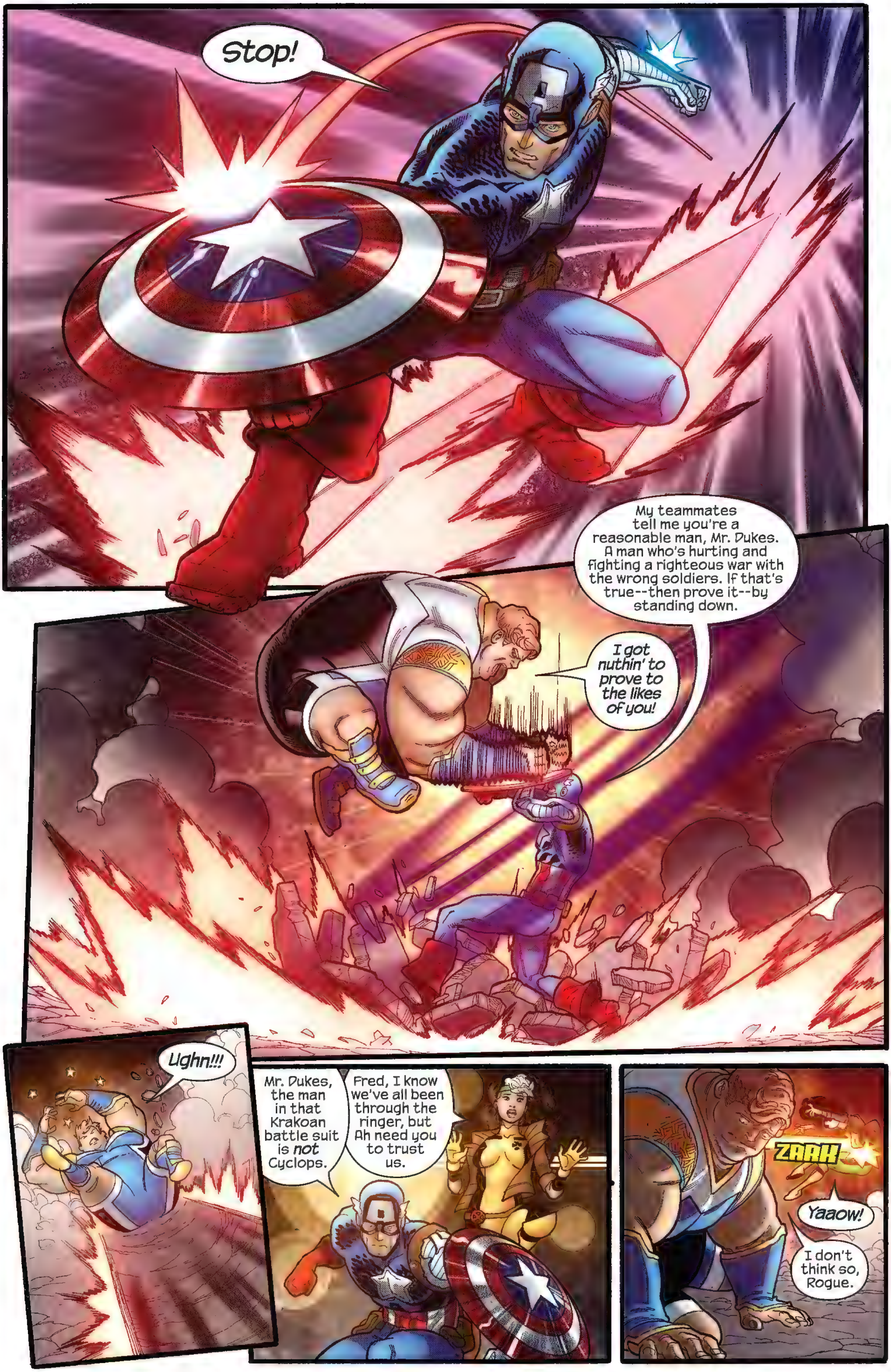

Camp Lehigh.
Mutant Liberation Front HQ.
You all have your orders. If I don't rendezvous with you, it's because I was killed taking out Orchis' space station.
It's been an honor to serve with you all.
Thank you, Cyclops.
Of course, Blob. You're a good soldier.
Captain Krakoa--thank you for taking my call.
Been busy.
What the hell do you need a nuke for?!
Insurance.
Ah, I see. You think you don't need Orchis?
Just so you know...a reporter just asked me questions. About you. About your identity.
I know you wanted complete anonymity, but perhaps someone you trusted talked?

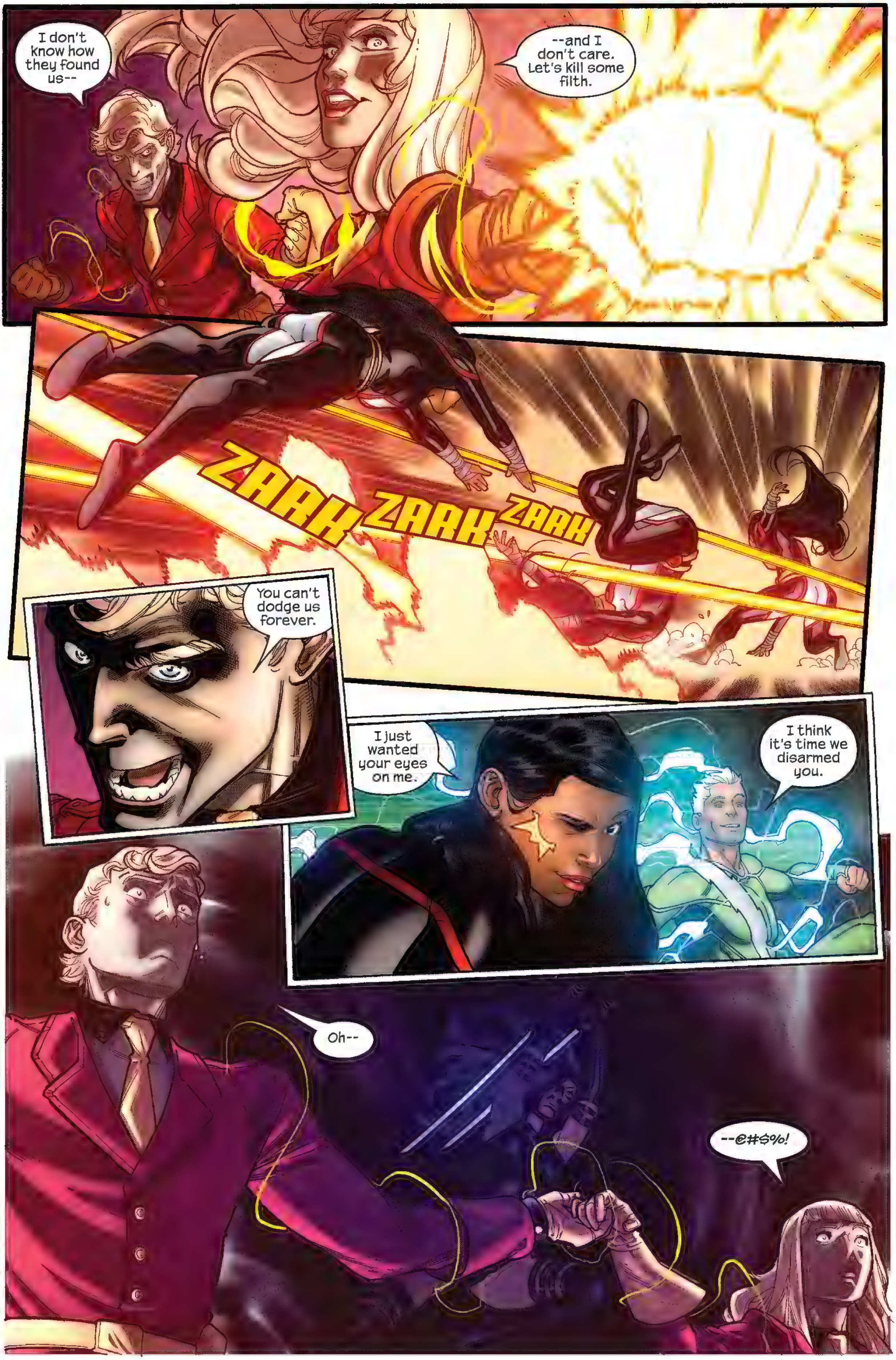

The reporter's name was Ben Urich, should you decide calling on him is in our mutual best interest. Stasis out.
Dammit, Andrea.
In rural Virginia, a disused military base slumbers in a blanket of razor wire. Quicksilver reconnoiters it three times before his teammates leap from their plane.
Lemme guess--you already took them all down?
I considered it, Monet, but I knew you'd never be quiet about it, so--
Maybe don't ruin the view from up here while running that mouth.
I'm getting a good read on the Avengers I.D. cards that Quicksilver and Penance hid on Fenris.
This place?!

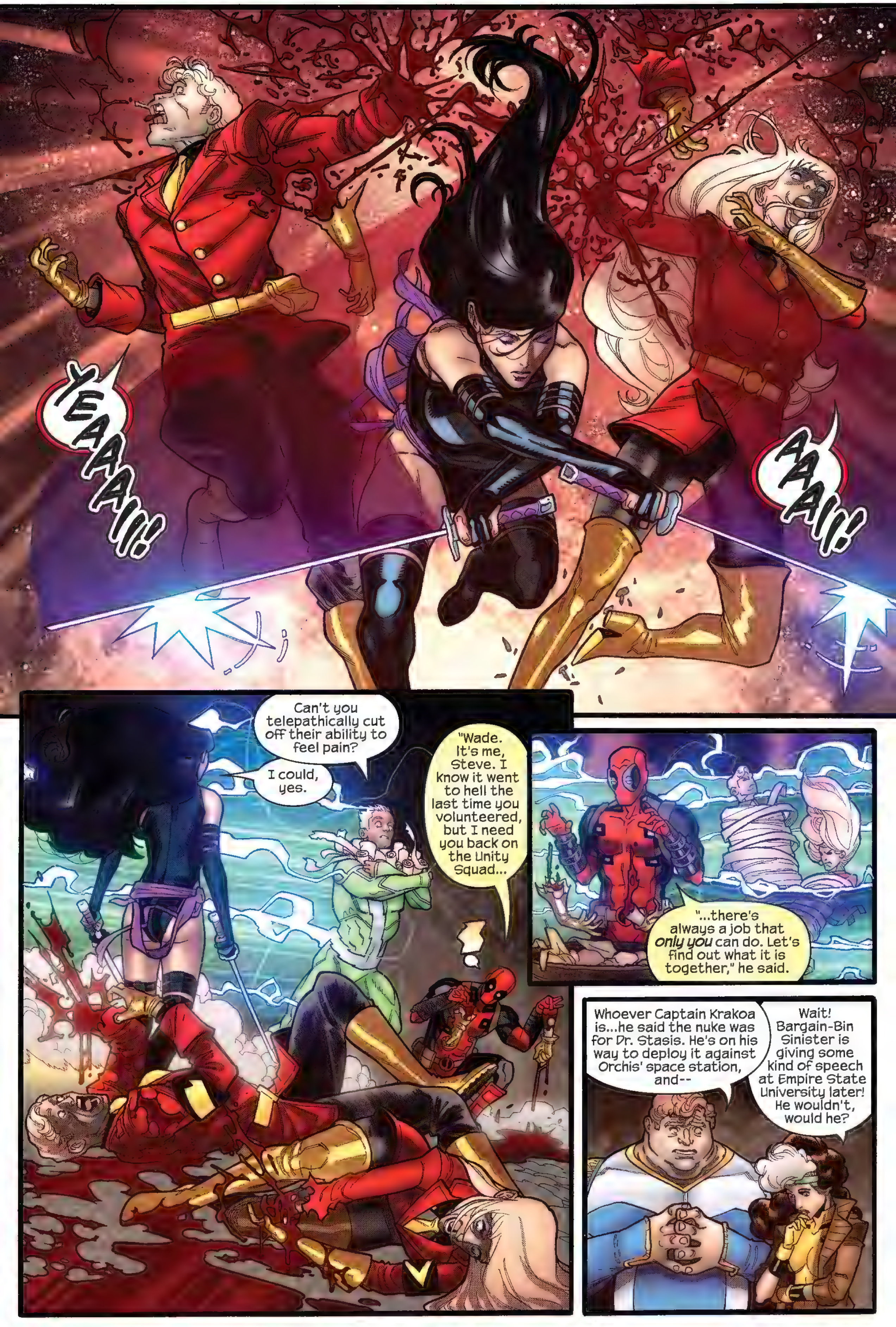

You good, Cap?
Yeah. I was here. A long time ago.
I'm not surprised--it's old as $#@%. Just like you.
÷Sniff÷ ÷Sniff÷
Look alive, M.L.F.--we got company!
Surrender, Wildside.
@#@$.
My mutant gift lets me crack that brain open--and pull out the worst suffering!

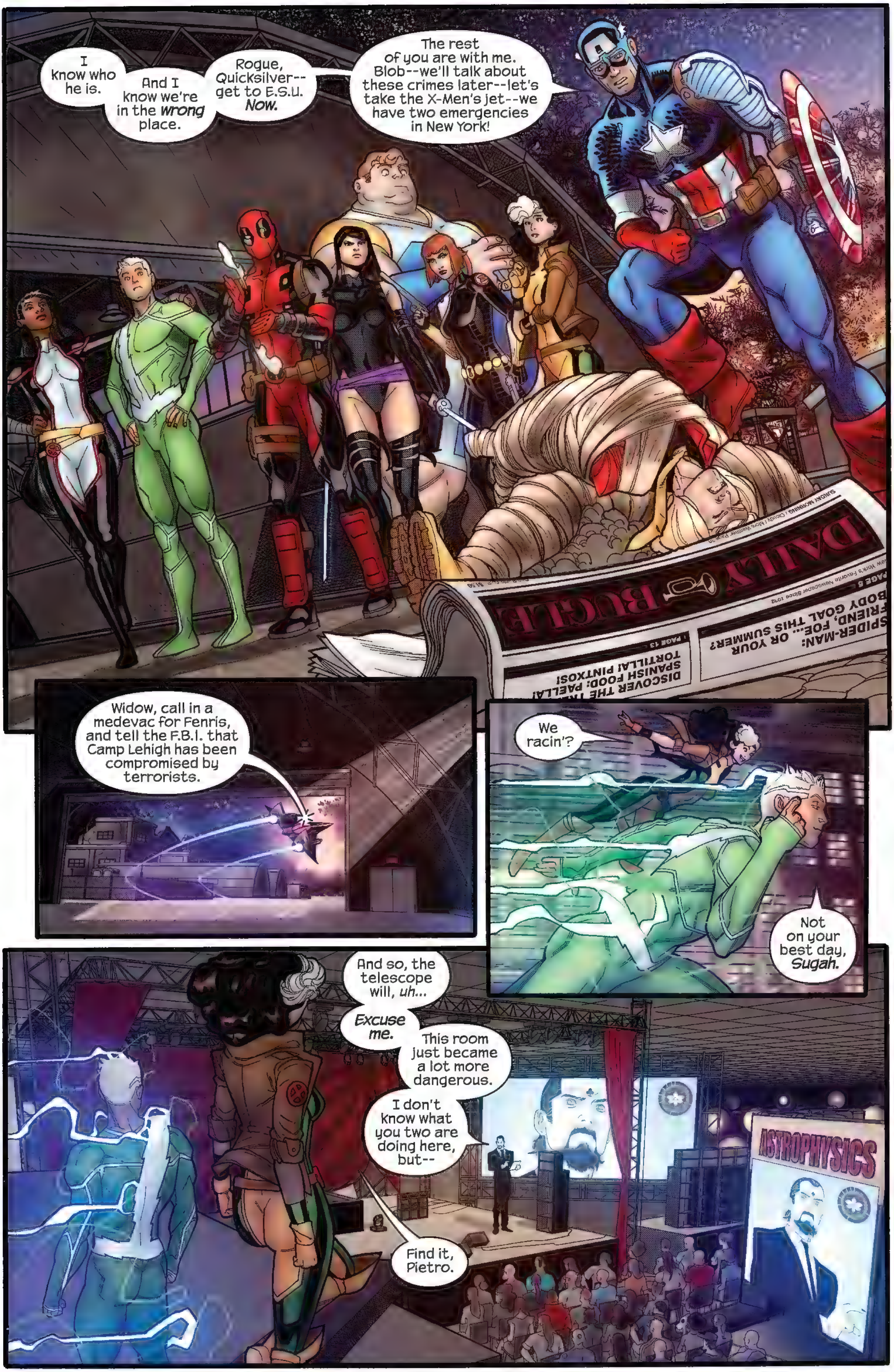

HA HA!
Cute trick.
Aargh!
Usually that works.

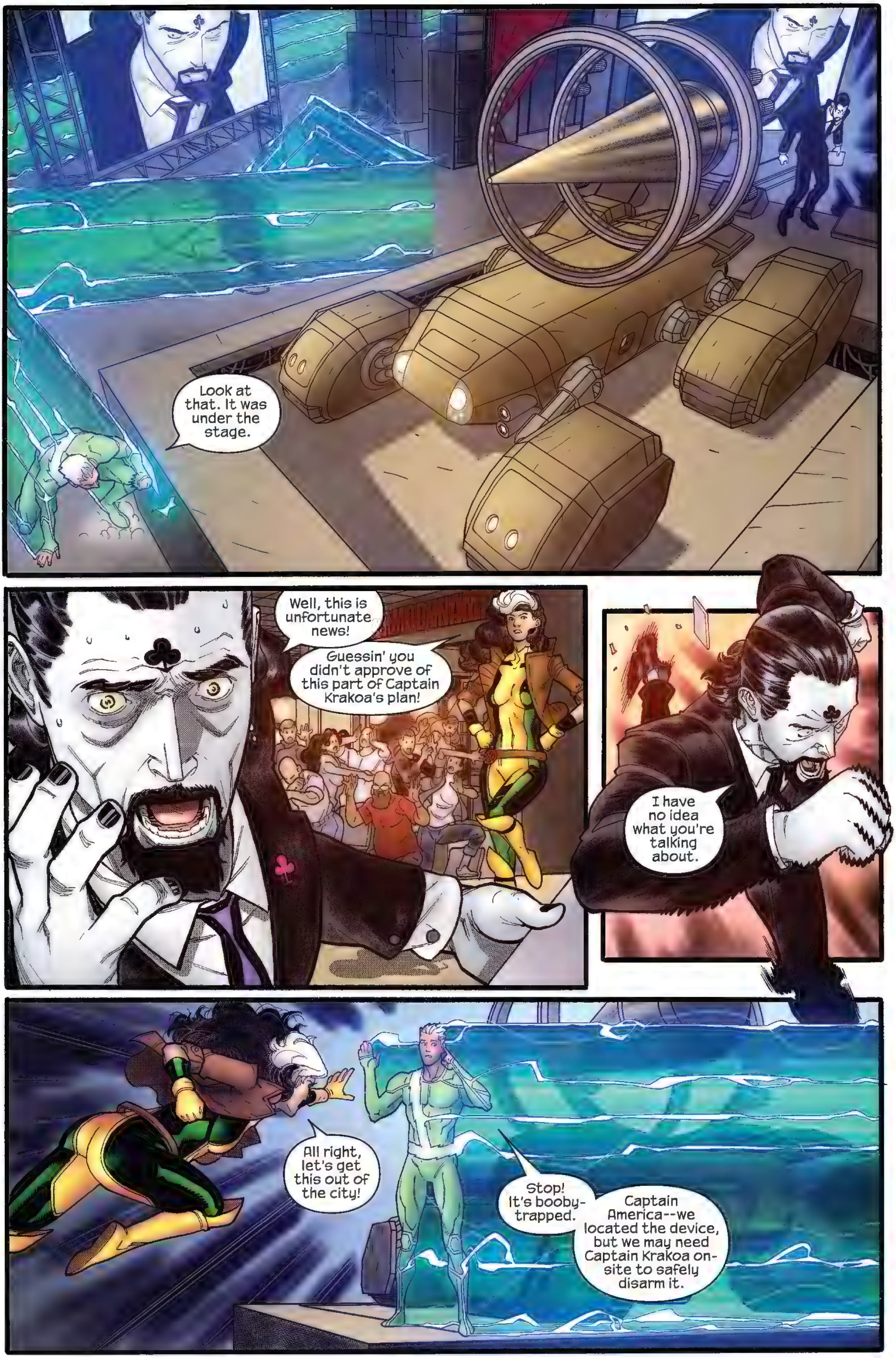

Where's the nuke, Wildside?
Go to hell!
SPTOO!
Oh, I'm gonna pry the info from your head, and then--
Mind if I cut in?
Urrrrk!
He knows nothing.
Monet and Psylocke--we expected better from you both!


Stop!
My teammates tell me you're a reasonable man, Mr. Dukes. A man who's hurting and fighting a righteous war with the wrong soldiers. If that's true--then prove it--by standing down.
I got nuthin' to prove to the likes of you!
Ughn!!!
Mr. Dukes, the man in that Krakoan battle suit is *not* Cyclops.
Fred, I know we've all been through the ringer, but Ah need you to trust us.
ZAAK
Yaaow!
I don't think so, Rogue.

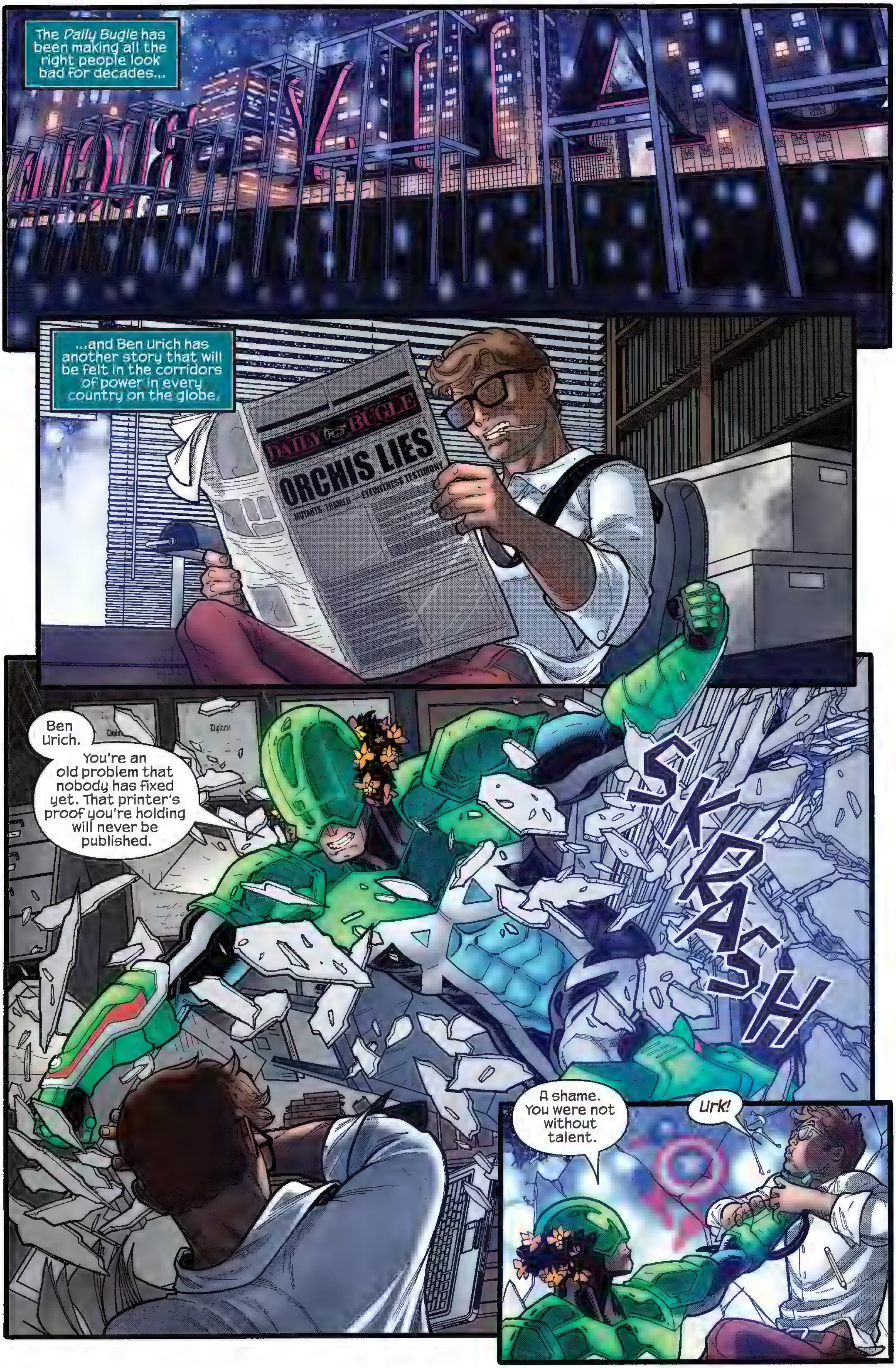

I don't know how they found us--
--and I don't care. Let's kill some filth.
ZARK ZARK ZARK
You can't dodge us forever.
I just wanted your eyes on me.
I think it's time we disarmed you.
Oh--
--@#$%!

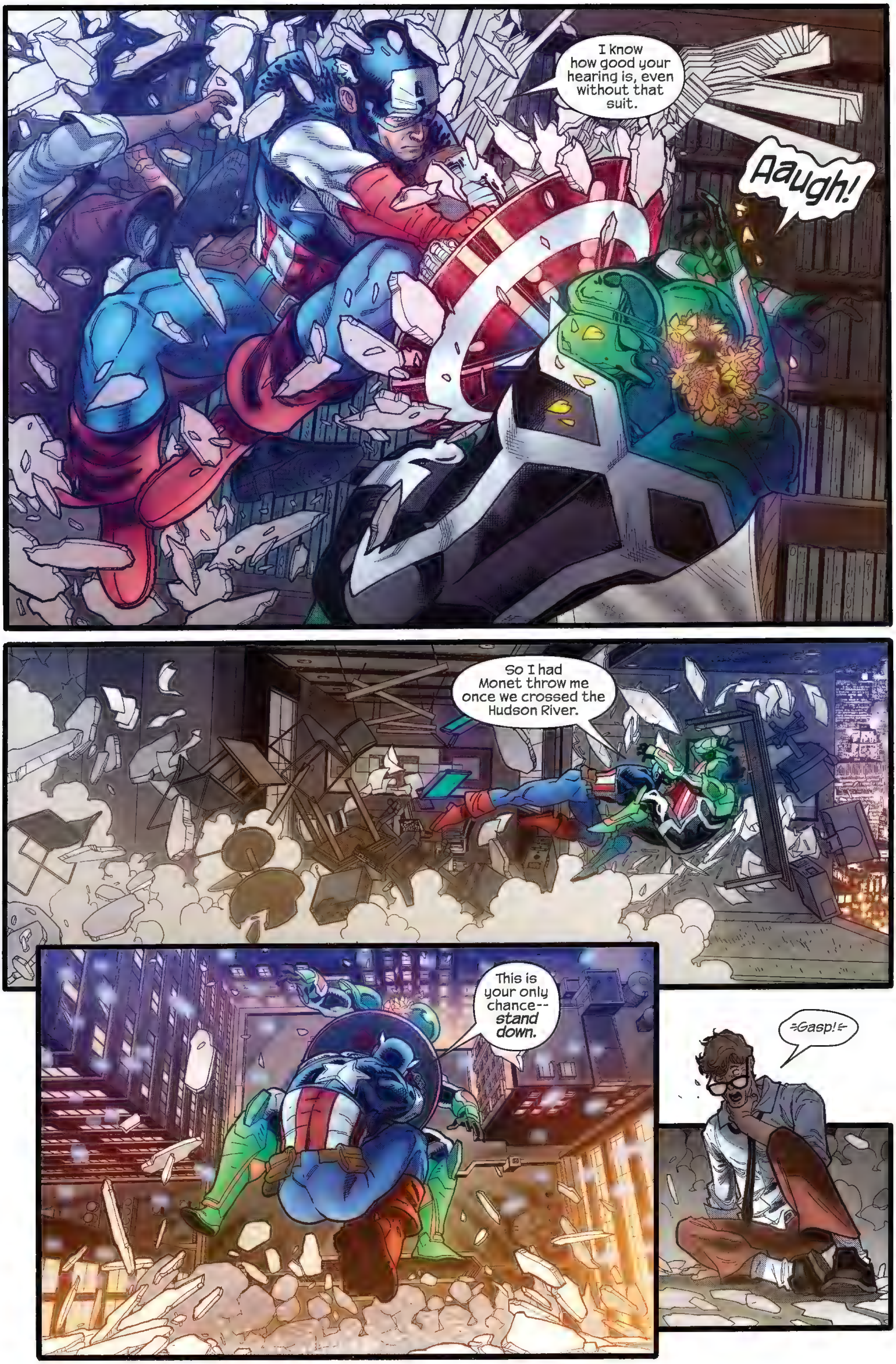

YEAAAII!
AAAII!
Can't you telepathically cut off their ability to feel pain?
I could, yes.
"Wade. It's me, Steve. I know it went to hell the last time you volunteered, but I need you back on the Unity Squad...
!
"...there's always a job that *only you* can do. Let's find out what it is together," he said.
Whoever Captain Krakoa is...he said the nuke was for Dr. Stasis. He's on his way to deploy it against Orchis' space station, and--
Wait! Bargain-Bin Sinister is giving some kind of speech at Empire State University later! He wouldn't, would he?

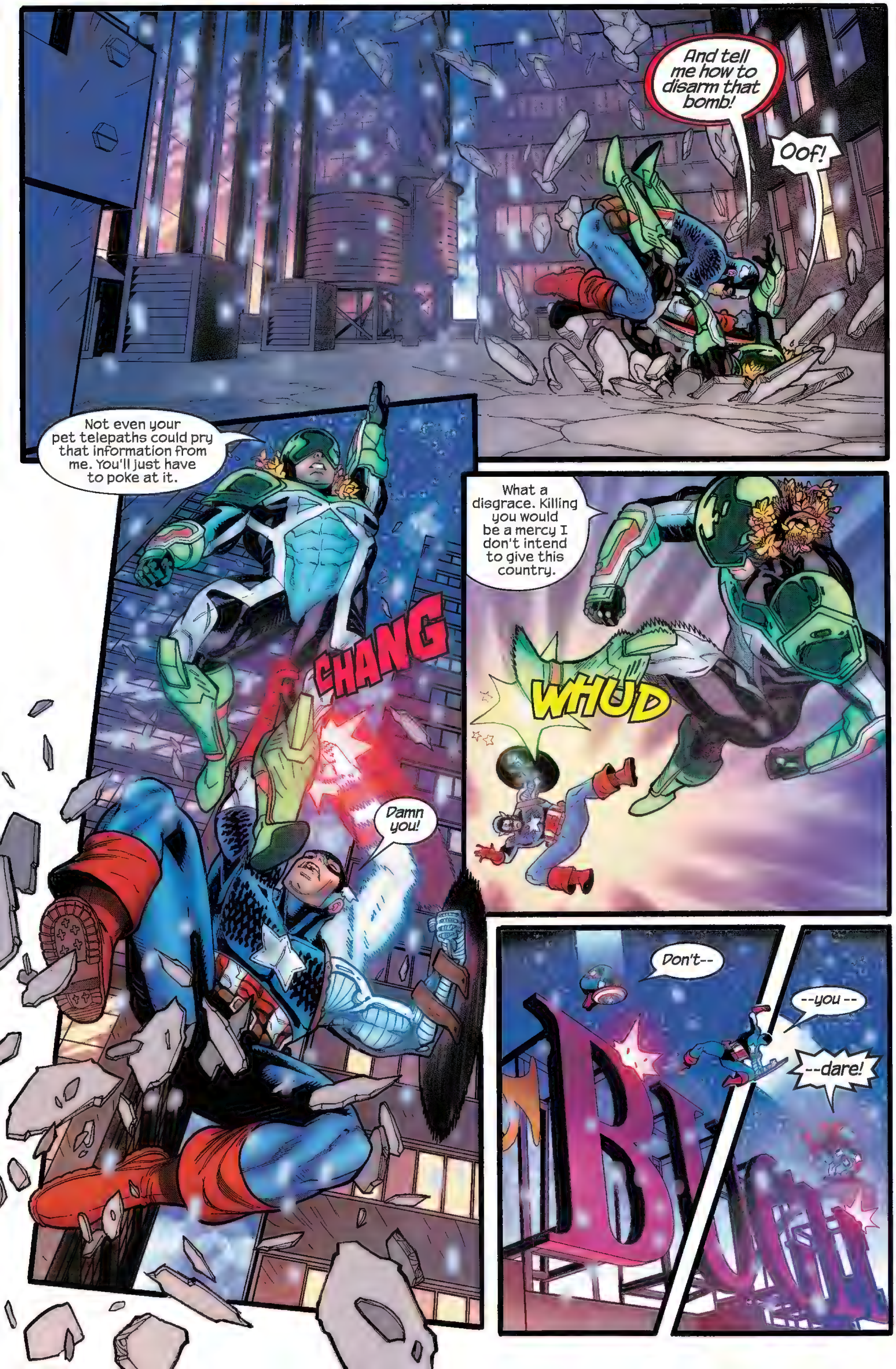

I know who he is.
And I know we're in the *wrong* place.
Rogue, Quicksilver--get to E.S.U. *Now.*
The rest of you are with me. Blob--we'll talk about these crimes later--let's take the X-Men's jet--we have two emergencies in New York!
DAILY BUGLE
SPIDER-MAN: FRIEND, FOE... OR YOUR BODY GOAL THIS SUMMER?
DISCOVER THE TRUE SPANISH FOOD: PAELLA! TORTILLA! PINTXOS!
Widow, call in a medevac for Fenris, and tell the F.B.I. that Camp Lehigh has been compromised by terrorists.
We racin'?
Not on your best day, *Sugah.*
And so, the telescope will, *uh*...
Excuse me.
This room just became a lot more dangerous.
I don't know what you two are doing here, but--
Find it, Pietro.
ASTROPHYSICS

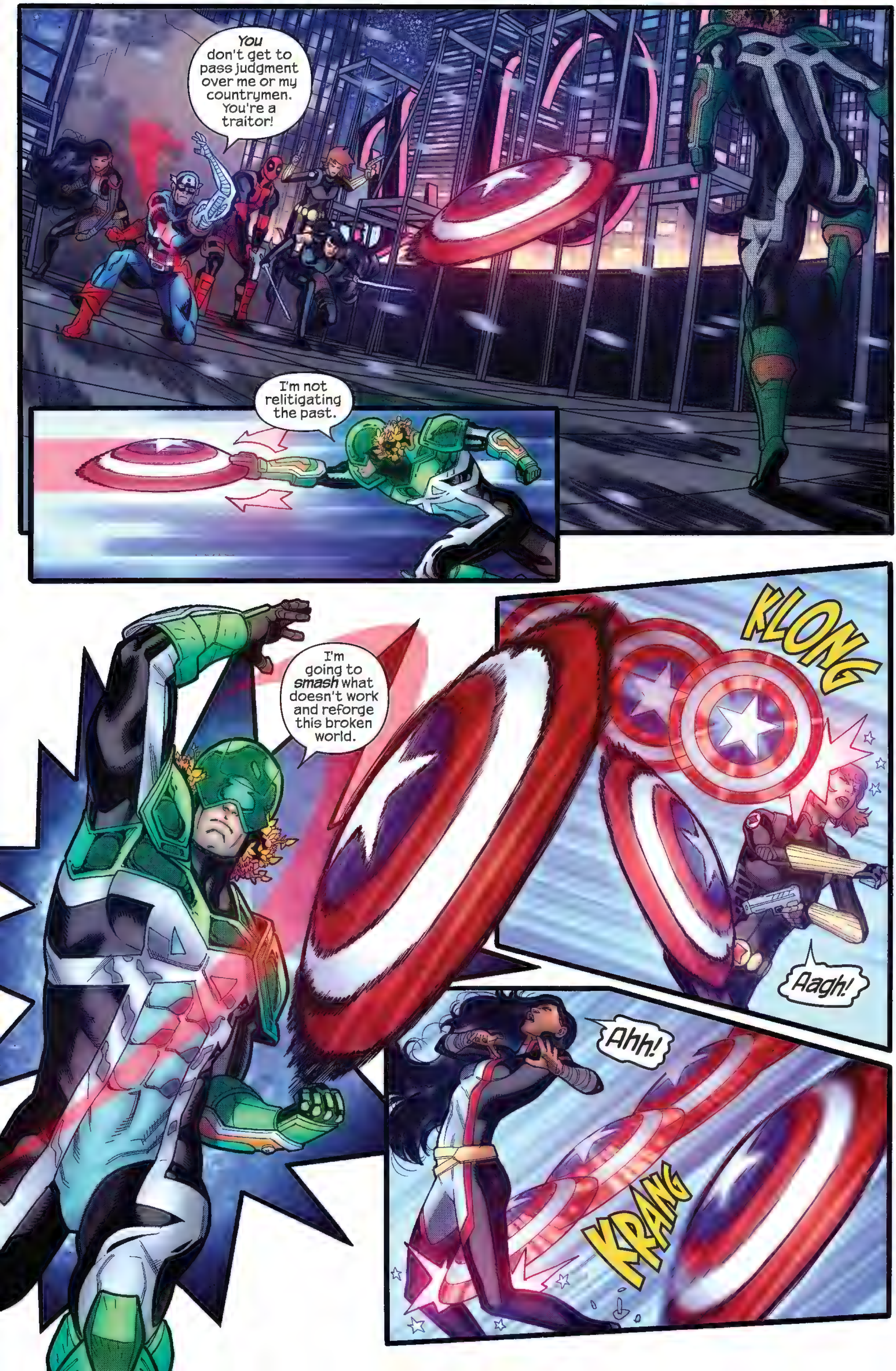


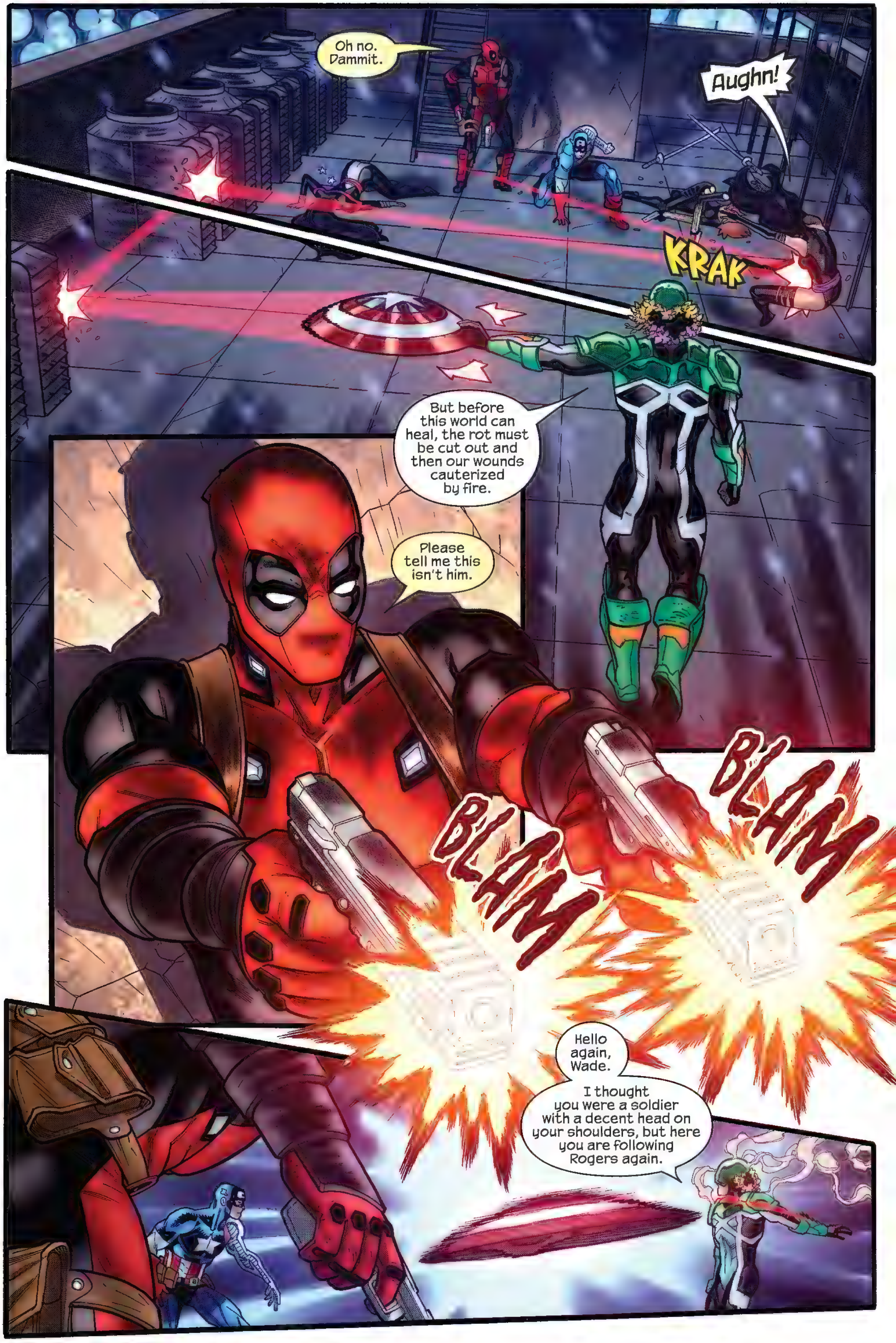
Look at that. It was under the stage.
Well, this is unfortunate news!
Guessin' you didn't approve of this part of Captain Krakoa's plan!
I have no idea what you're talking about.
All right, let's get this out of the city!
Stop! It's booby-trapped.
Captain America--we located the device, but we may need Captain Krakoa on-site to safely disarm it.

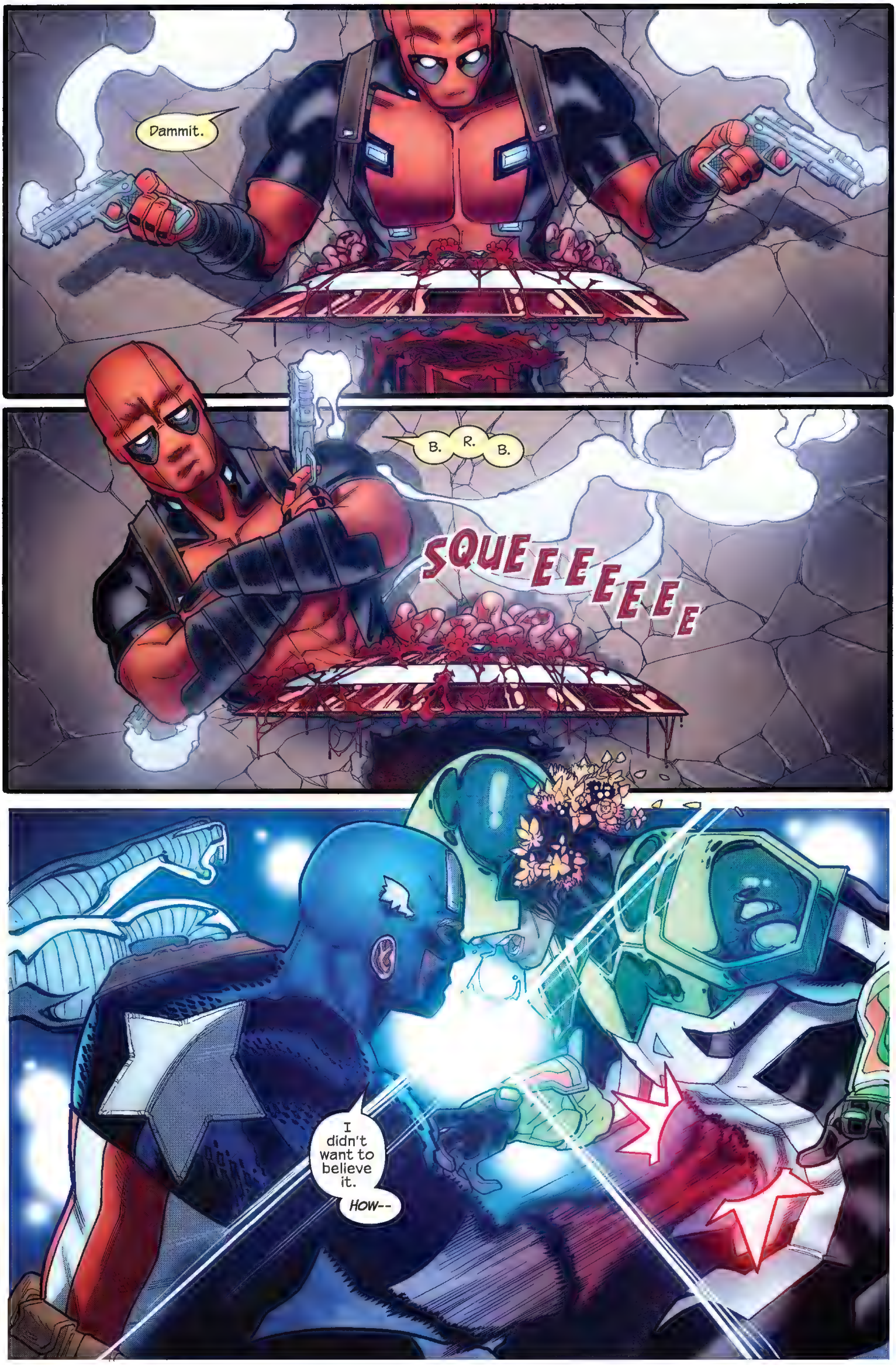

The *Daily Bugle* has been making all the right people look bad for decades...
...and Ben Urich has another story that will be felt in the corridors of power in every country on the globe.
DAILY BUGLE
ORCHIS LIES
MUTANTS FRAMED—EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY
Diploma
Ben Urich.
You're an old problem that nobody has fixed yet. That printer's proof you're holding will never be published.
SKRASH
A shame. You were not without talent.
Urk!

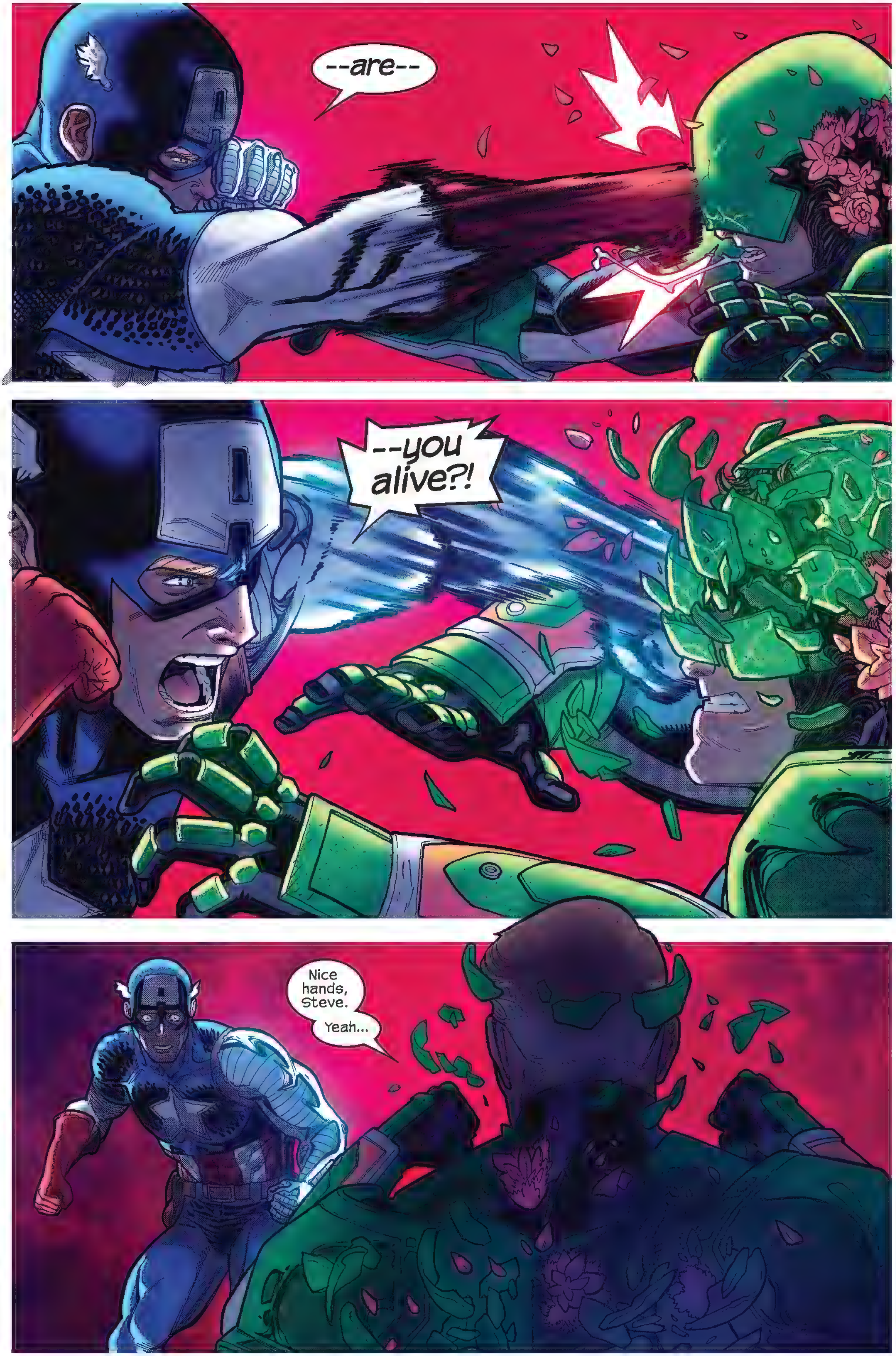

I know how good your hearing is, even without that suit.
Aaugh!
So I had Monet throw me once we crossed the Hudson River.
This is your only chance-- *stand down.*
=Gasp!=

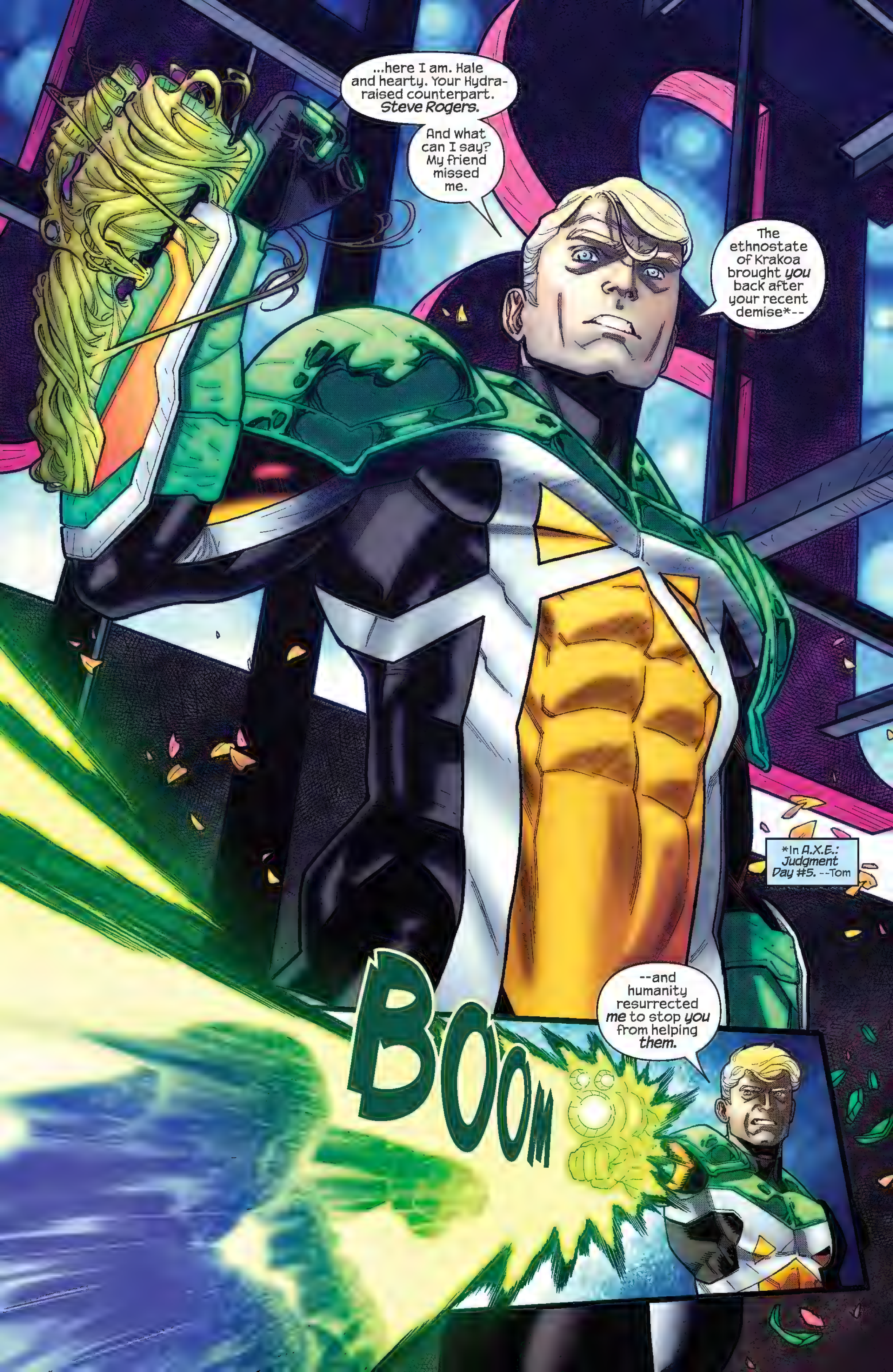

And tell me how to disarm that bomb!
Oof!
Not even your pet telepaths could pry that information from me. You'll just have to poke at it.
CHANG
Damn you!
What a disgrace. Killing you would be a mercy I don't intend to give this country.
WHUD
Don't--
--you--
--dare!


You don't get to pass judgment over me or my countrymen. You're a traitor!
I'm not relitigating the past.
I'm going to smash what doesn't work and reforge this broken world.
KLONG
Aagh!
Ahh!
KRANG


Oh no. Dammit.
Aughn!
KRAK
But before this world can heal, the rot must be cut out and then our wounds cauterized by fire.
Please tell me this isn't him.
BLAM
BLAM
Hello again, Wade.
I thought you were a soldier with a decent head on your shoulders, but here you are following Rogers again.


Dammit.
B. R. B.
SQUEEEEEEEE
I didn't want to believe it.
HOW--

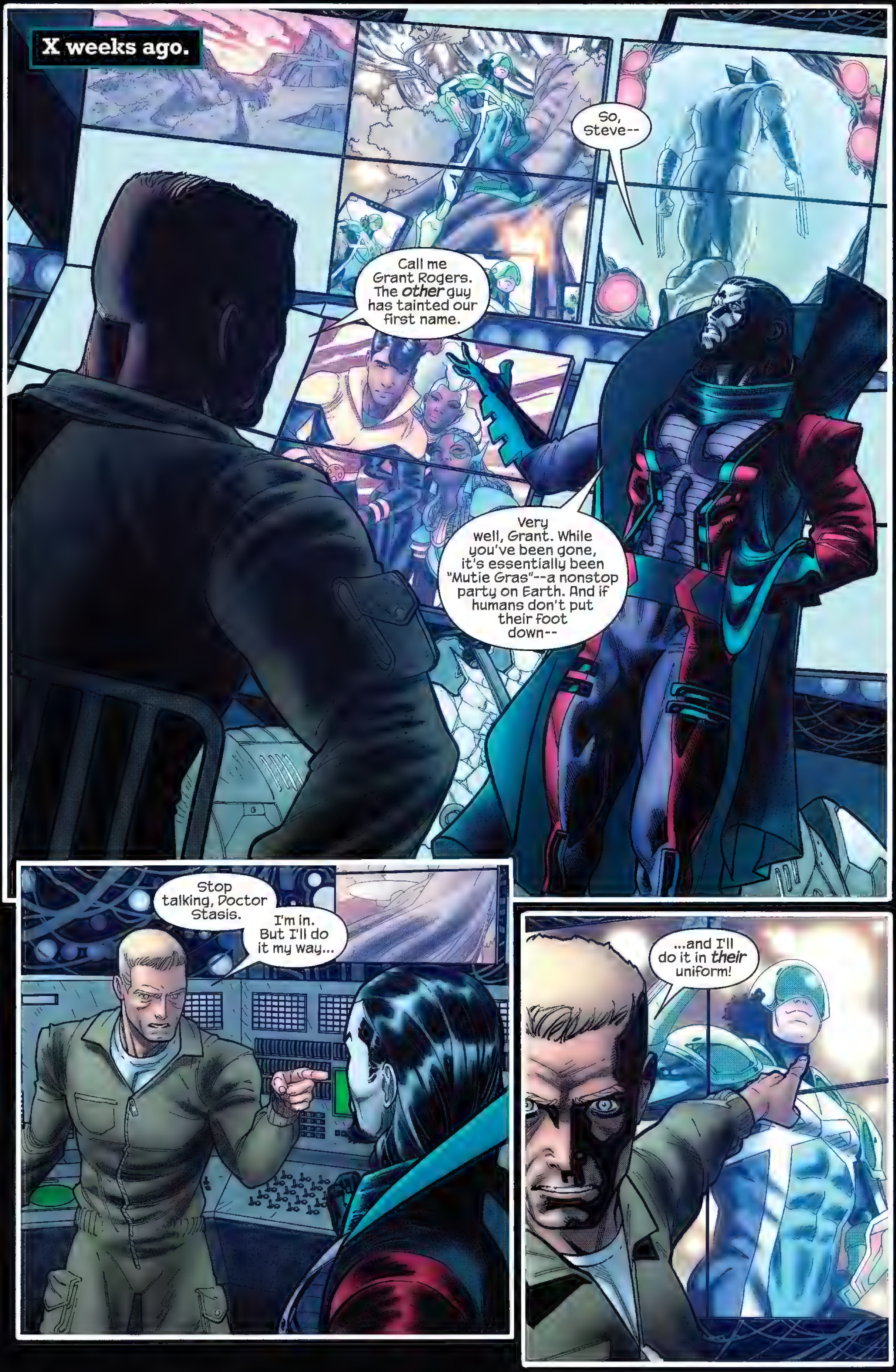

--are--
--you alive?!
Nice hands, Steve.
Yeah...

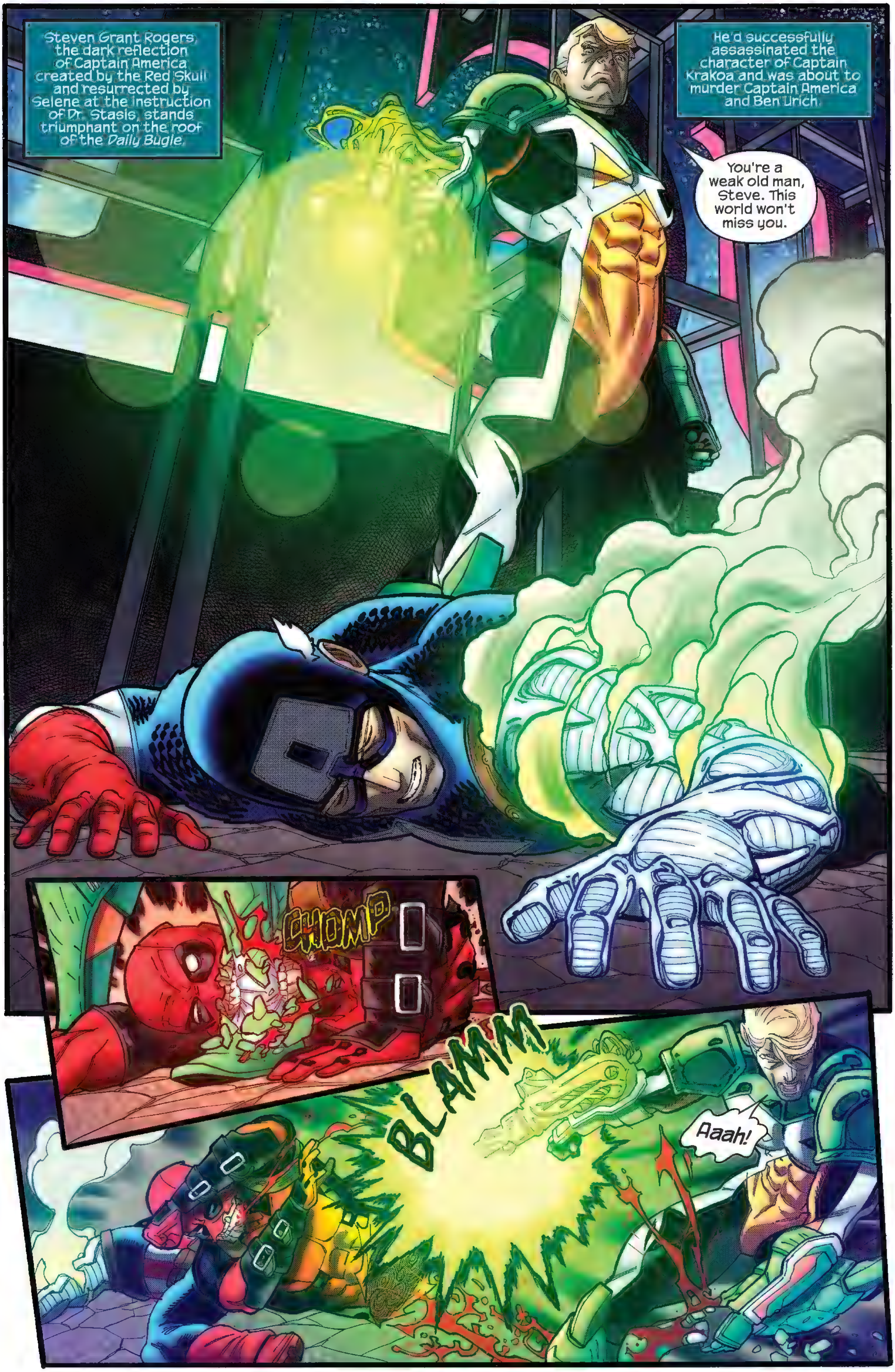

...here I am. Hale and hearty. Your Hydra-raised counterpart. *Steve Rogers.*
And what can I say? My friend missed me.
The ethnostate of Krakoa brought *you* back after your recent demise*--
*In *A.X.E.: Judgment Day* #5. --Tom
BOOM
--and humanity resurrected *me* to stop *you* from helping *them.*

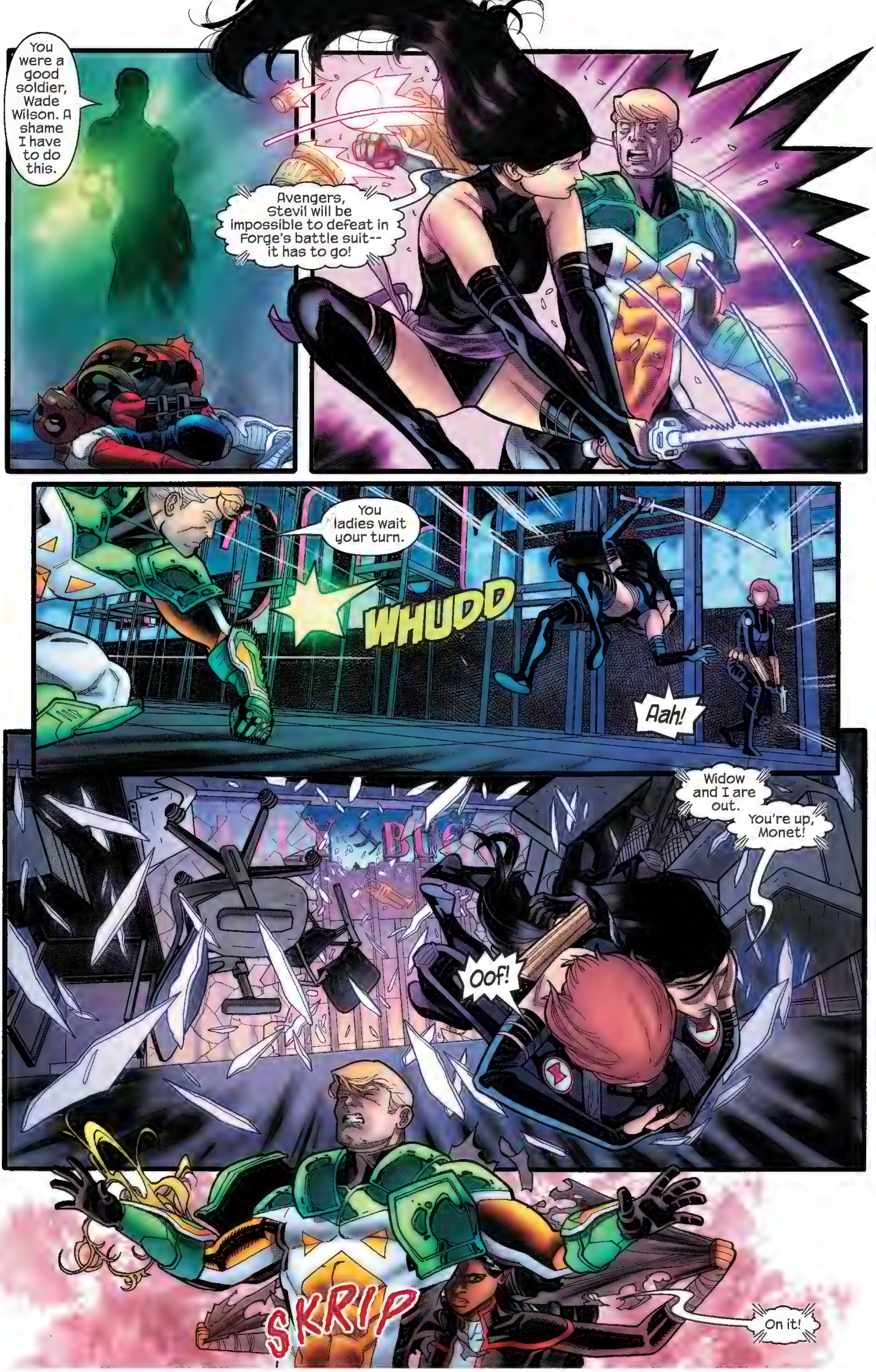
GARRÓN '23!

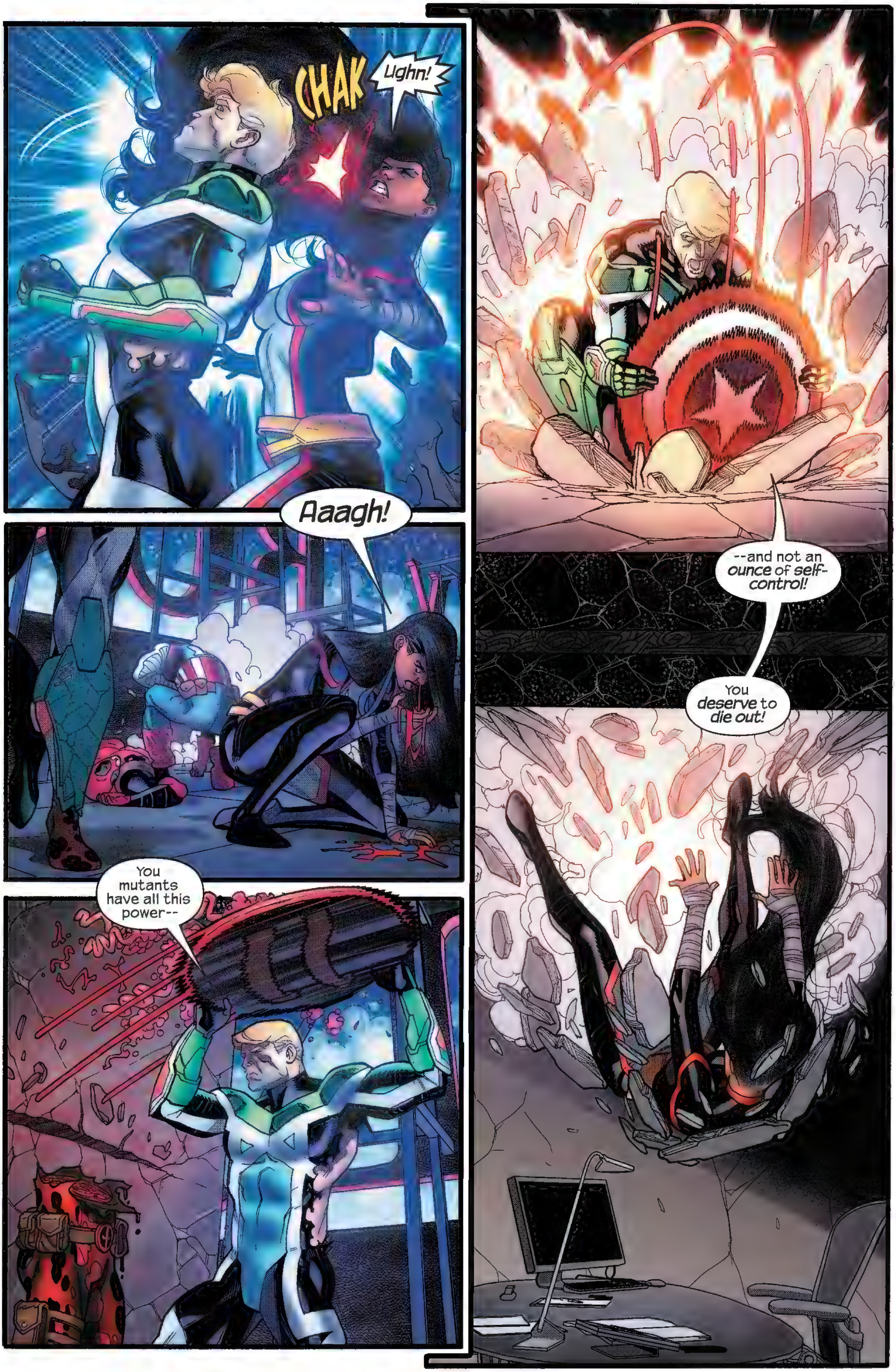
Showdown

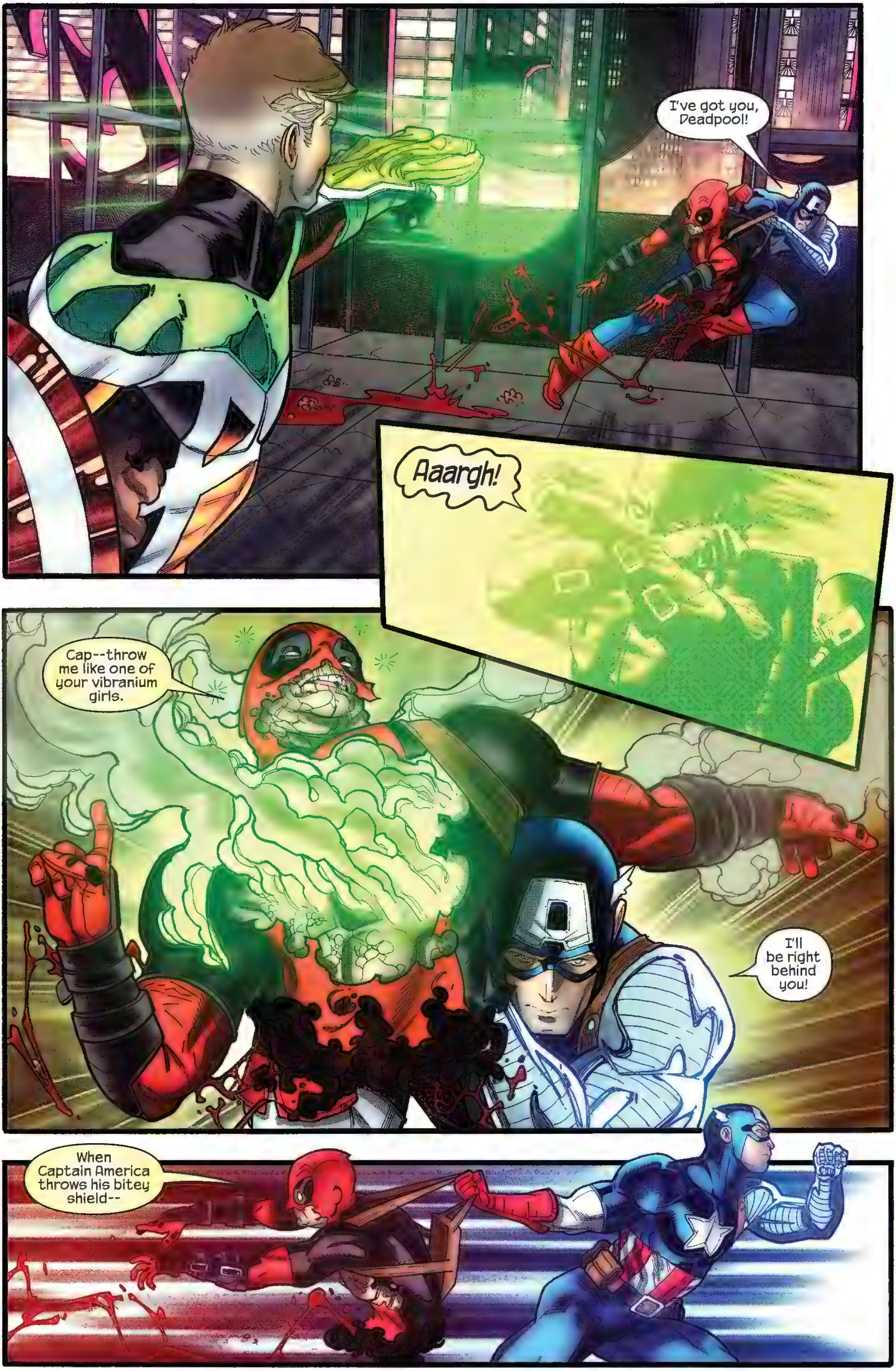
5

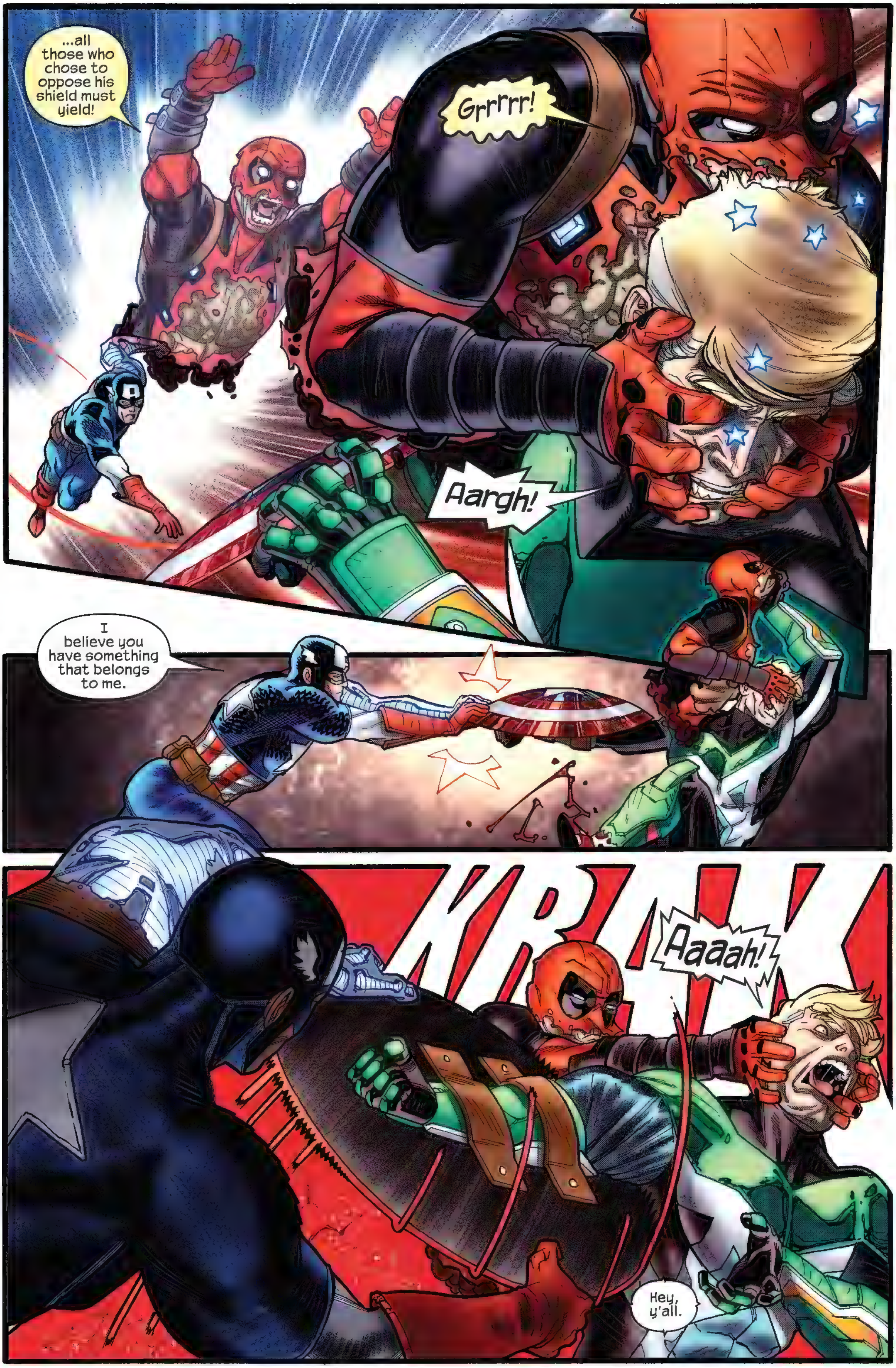

X weeks ago.
So, Steve--
Call me Grant Rogers. The *other* guy has tainted our first name.
Very well, Grant. While you've been gone, it's essentially been "Mutie Gras"--a nonstop party on Earth. And if humans don't put their foot down--
Stop talking, Doctor Stasis.
I'm in. But I'll do it my way...
...and I'll do it in *their* uniform!

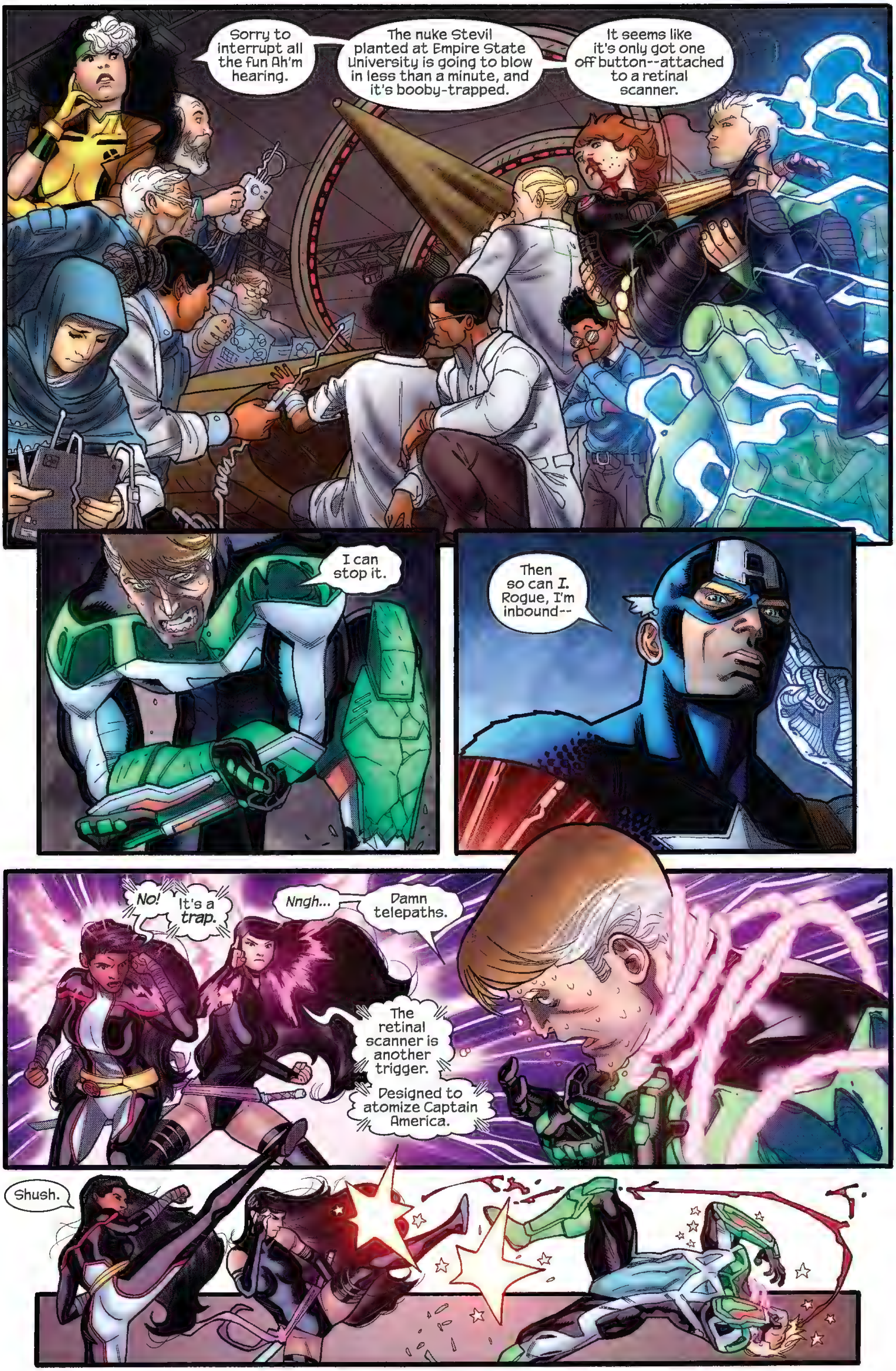

Steven Grant Rogers, the dark reflection of Captain America created by the Red Skull and resurrected by Selene at the instruction of Dr. Stasis, stands triumphant on the roof of the *Daily Bugle*.
He'd successfully assassinated the character of Captain Krakoa and was about to murder Captain America and Ben Urich.
You're a weak old man, Steve. This world won't miss you.
CHOMP
BLAMM
Aaah!

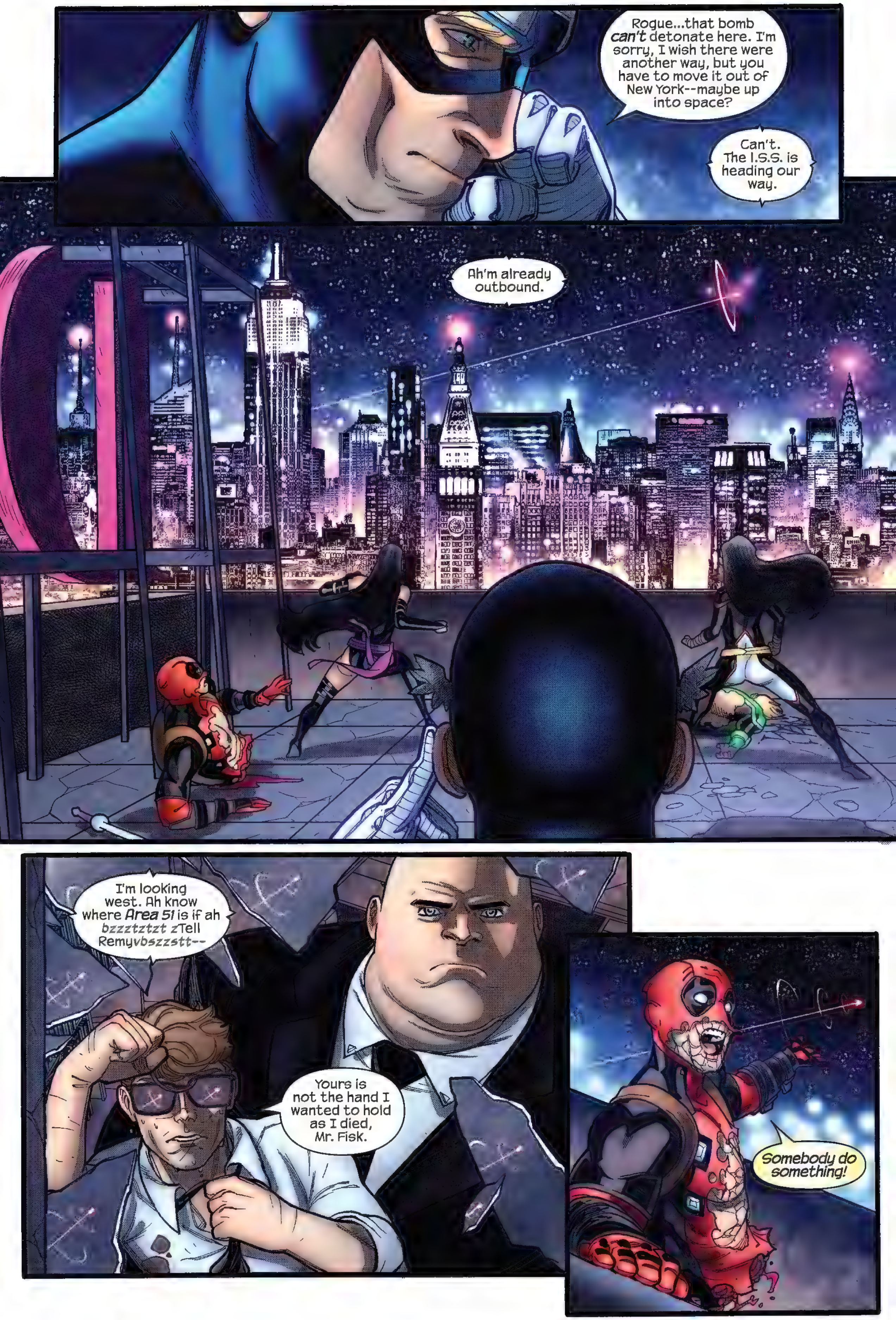

You were a good soldier, Wade Wilson. A shame I have to do this.
Avengers, Stevil will be impossible to defeat in Forge's battle suit-- it has to go!
You ladies wait your turn.
WHUDD
Aah!
Widow and I are out.
You're up, Monet!
Oof!
SKRIP
On it!

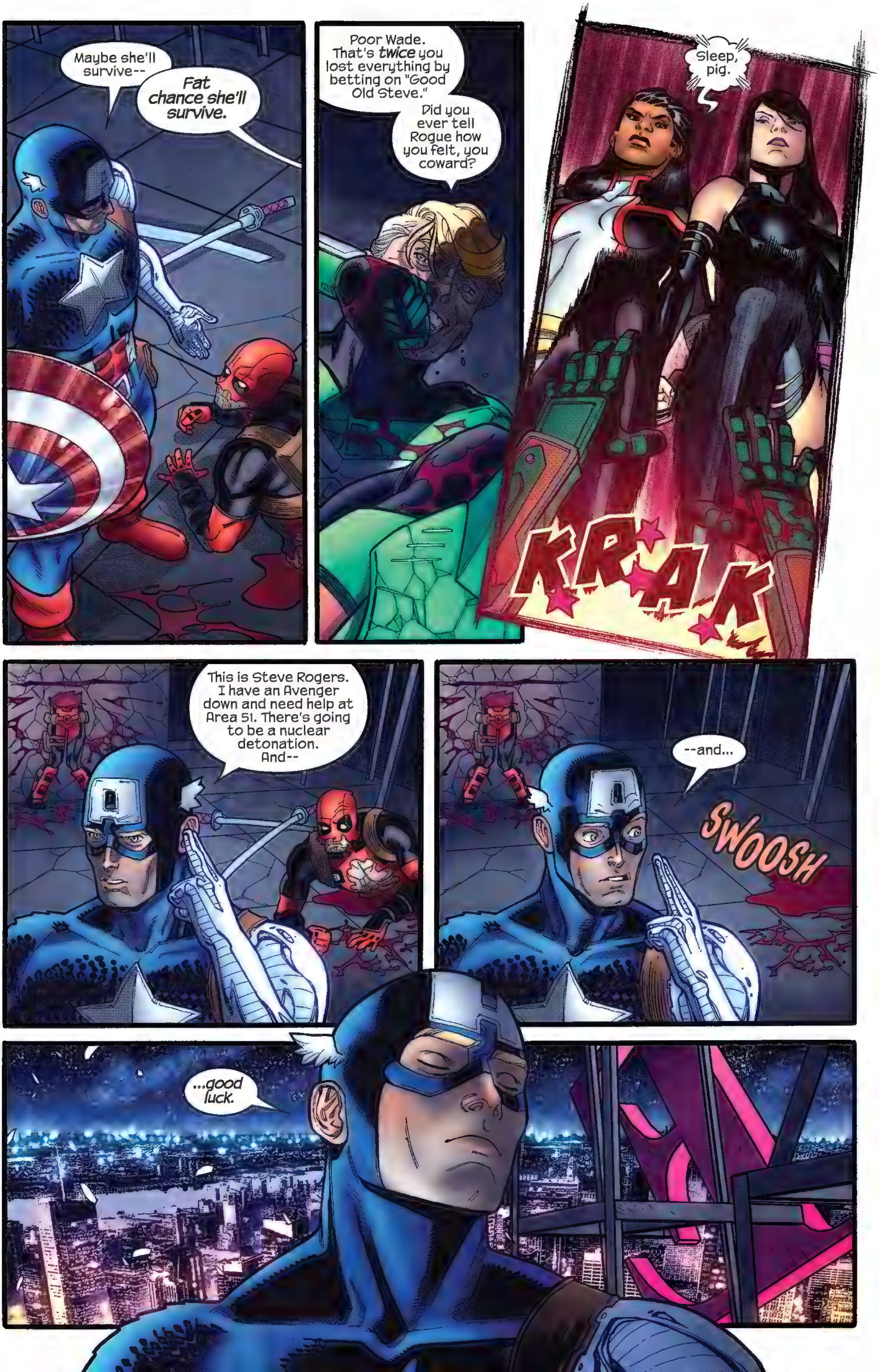

CHAK
Ughn!
Aaagh!
You mutants have all this power--
--and not an ounce of self-control!
You deserve to die out!

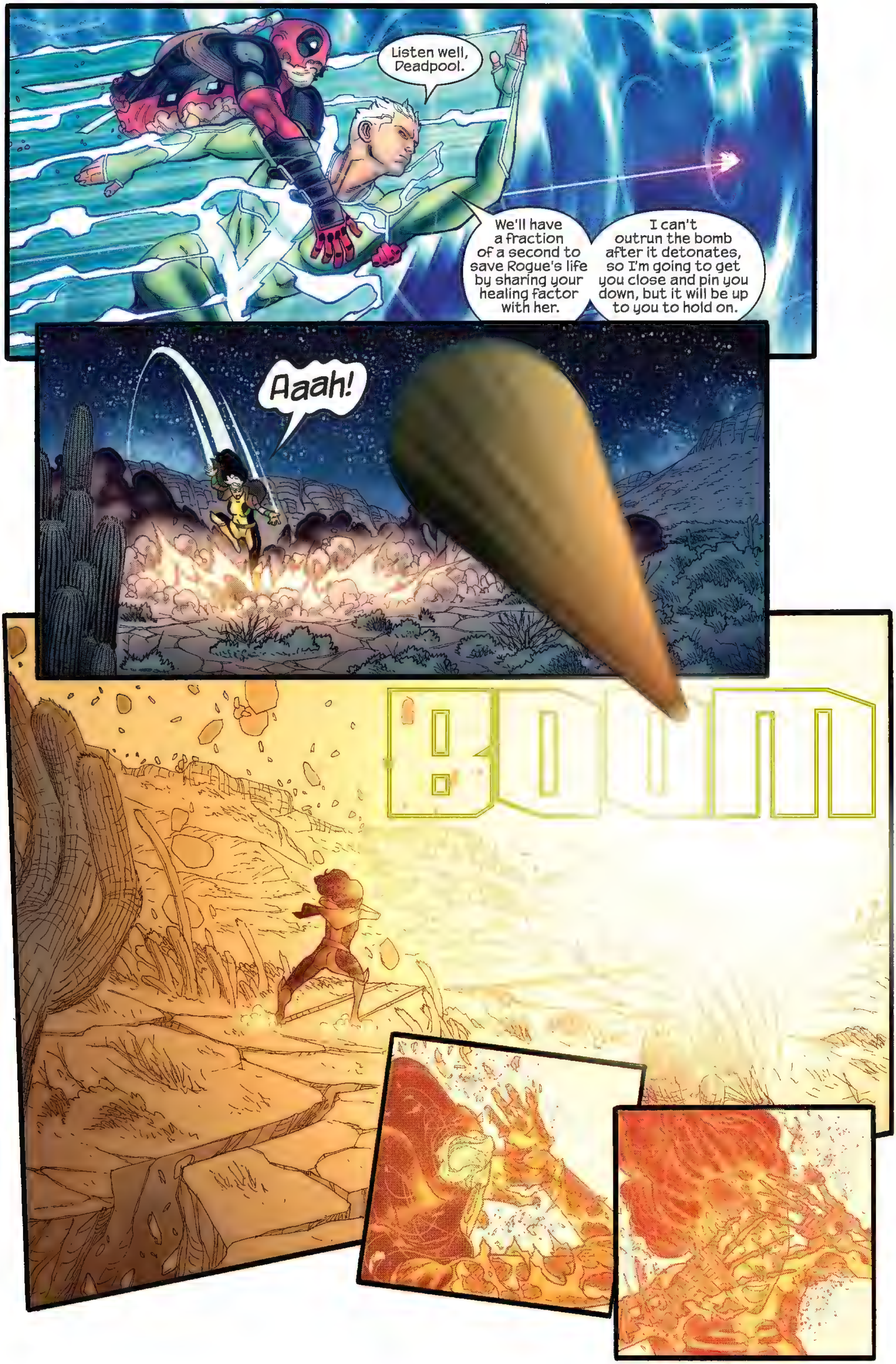

I've got you, Deadpool!
Aaargh!
Cap--throw me like one of your vibranium girls.
I'll be right behind you!
When Captain America throws his bitey shield--

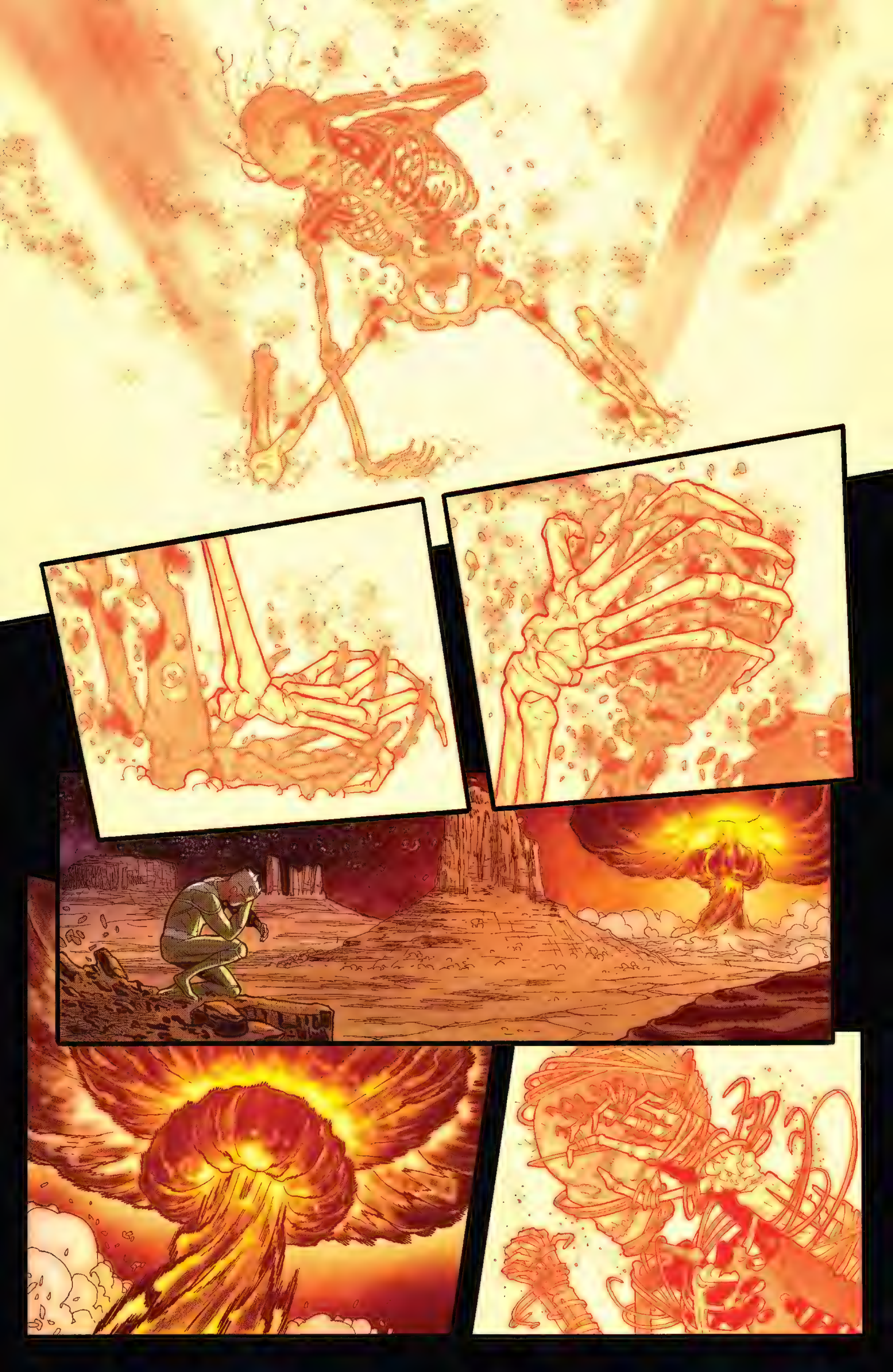

...all those who chose to oppose his shield must yield!
Grrrrr!
Aargh!
I believe you have something that belongs to me.
Aaaah!
Hey, y'all.

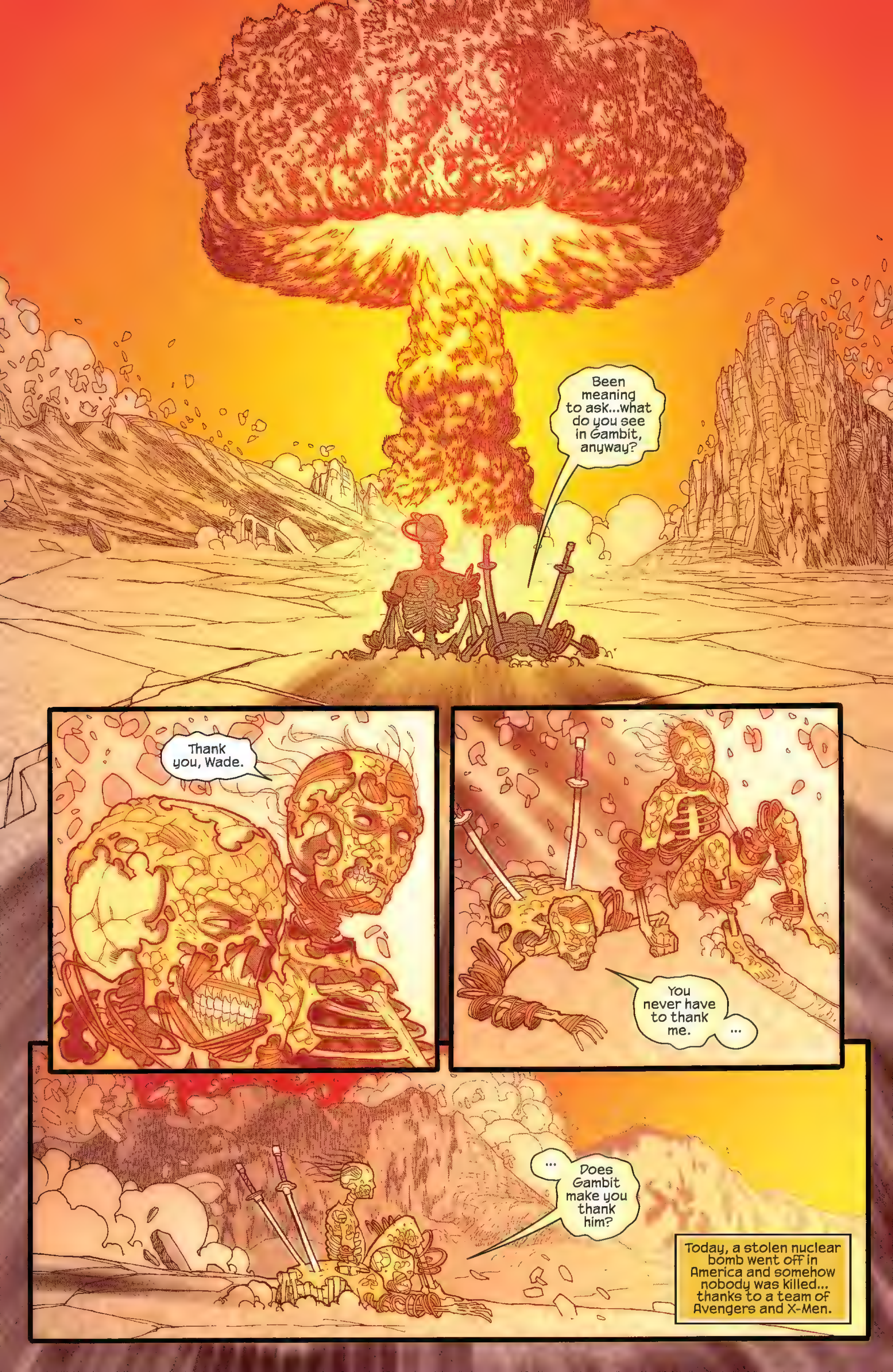

Sorry to interrupt all the fun Ah'm hearing.
The nuke Stevil planted at Empire State University is going to blow in less than a minute, and it's booby-trapped.
It seems like it's only got one off button--attached to a retinal scanner.
I can stop it.
Then so can I. Rogue, I'm inbound--
No!
It's a trap.
Nngh...
Damn telepaths.
The retinal scanner is another trigger.
Designed to atomize Captain America.
Shush.

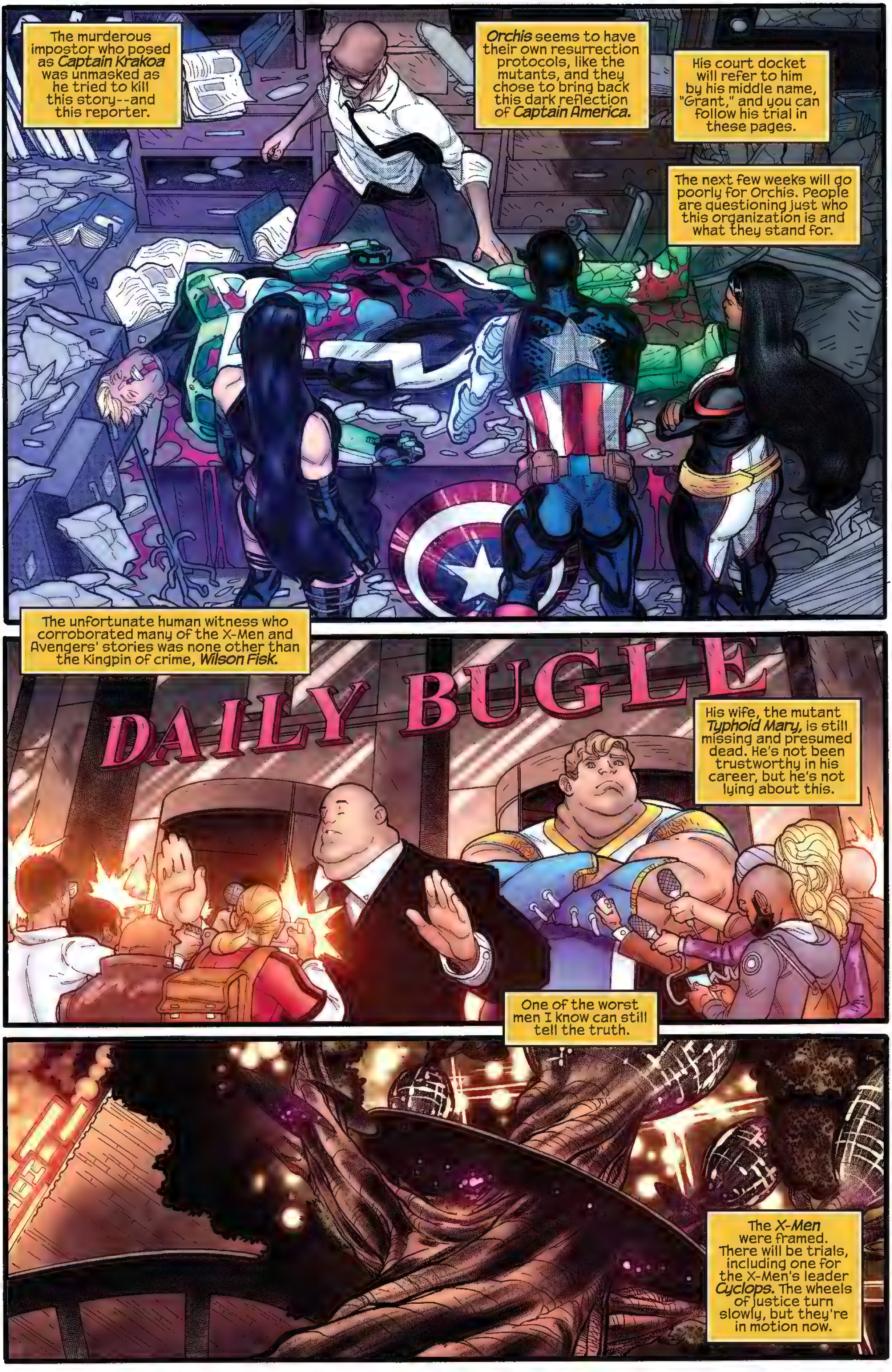

Rogue...that bomb *can't* detonate here. I'm sorry, I wish there were another way, but you have to move it out of New York--maybe up into space?
Can't. The I.S.S. is heading our way.
Ah'm already outbound.
I'm looking west. Ah know where *Area 51* is if ah *bzzztztzt* zTell Remy*vbszzstt*--
Yours is not the hand I wanted to hold as I died, Mr. Fisk.
Somebody do something!


Maybe she'll survive--
Fat chance she'll survive.
Poor Wade. That's *twice* you lost everything by betting on "Good Old Steve."
Did you ever tell Rogue how you felt, you coward?
Sleep, pig.
KRAK
This is Steve Rogers. I have an Avenger down and need help at Area 51. There's going to be a nuclear detonation. And--
--and...
SWOOSH
...good luck.


Listen well, Deadpool.
We'll have a fraction of a second to save Rogue's life by sharing your healing factor with her.
I can't outrun the bomb after it detonates, so I'm going to get you close and pin you down, but it will be up to you to hold on.
Aaah!
BOOM




Been meaning to ask...what do you see in Gambit, anyway?
Thank you, Wade.
You never have to thank me.
...
... Does Gambit make you thank him?
Today, a stolen nuclear bomb went off in America and somehow nobody was killed... thanks to a team of Avengers and X-Men.


The murderous impostor who posed as *Captain Krakoa* was unmasked as he tried to kill this story--and this reporter.
Orchis seems to have their own resurrection protocols, like the mutants, and they chose to bring back this dark reflection of *Captain America.*
His court docket will refer to him by his middle name, "Grant," and you can follow his trial in these pages.
The next few weeks will go poorly for Orchis. People are questioning just who this organization is and what they stand for.
The unfortunate human witness who corroborated many of the X-Men and Avengers' stories was none other than the Kingpin of crime, *Wilson Fisk.*
DAILY BUGLE
His wife, the mutant *Typhoid Mary,* is still missing and presumed dead. He's not been trustworthy in his career, but he's not lying about this.
One of the worst men I know can still tell the truth.
The *X-Men* were framed. There will be trials, including one for the X-Men's leader *Cyclops.* The wheels of justice turn slowly, but they're in motion now.

TO ALL POINTS:

Good news, everyone. The trial of Cyclops and, by extension, all of Krakoa is scheduled to commence in Paris, France. I asked about Paris, Texas, because they have the death penalty, but we have some sway with the judiciary, and I think we'll be able to sort everything we need, including a body.

It's highly likely the remaining mutant resistance will be unable to resist the urge of attacking the court and freeing Cyclops -- but we'll be ready. It will only bolster our case for many of the hard days to come. Liquidating the mutants will trigger the next phase of our operation to bring order to our planet. We need the headlines from the trial to make sure the horrors of mutant tyranny are playing on every screen around the world before we engage the mutates that we know we must (i.e. the Avengers, Fantastic Four, etc.).

We've been working very hard at this campaign for a long time. Those of you who were involved in planning the protocols that predate Krakoa have been laboring for humanity for years.

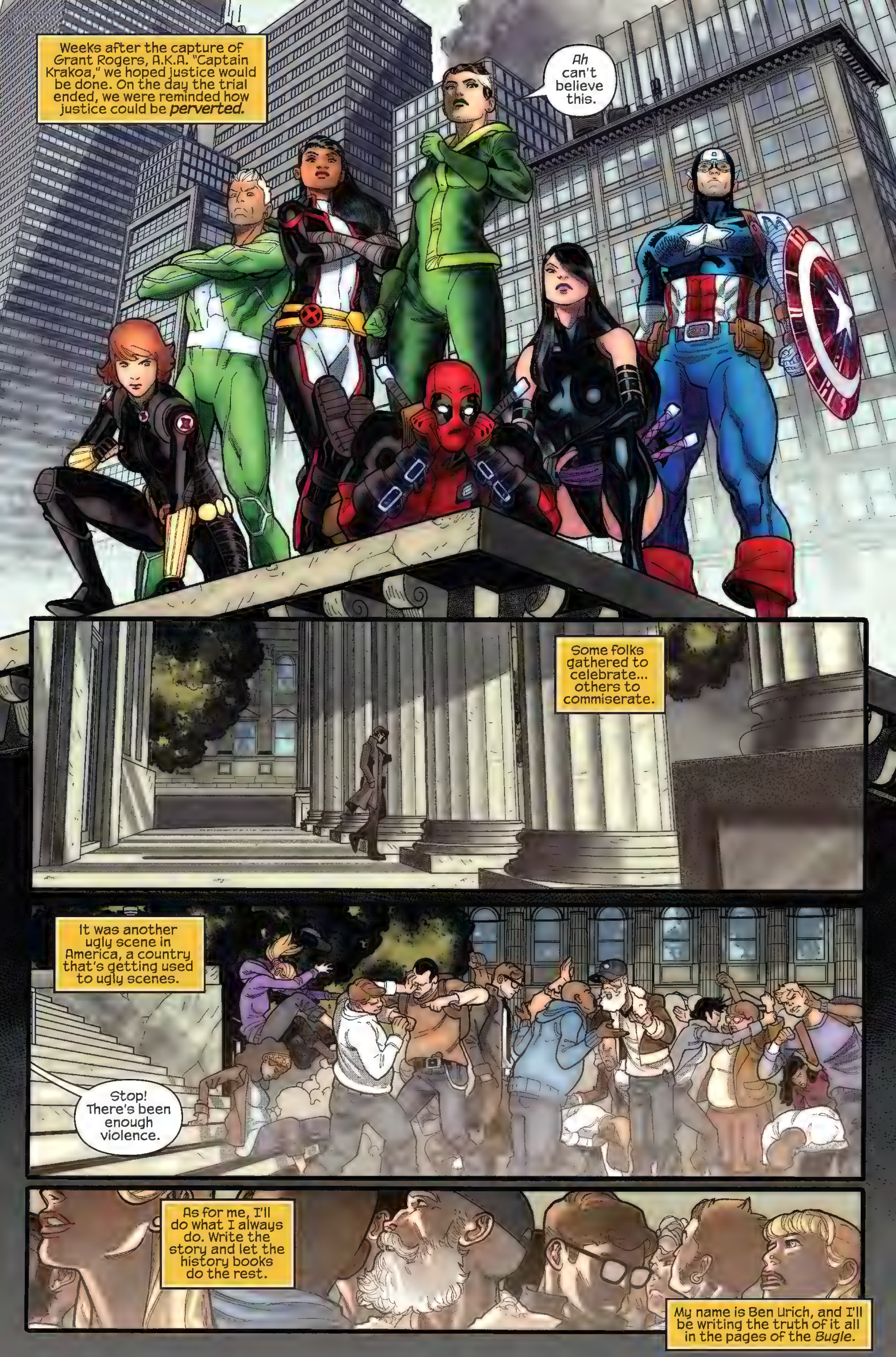
Soon, the hard parts will all be over, and we can set about reordering the world. Until then, keep your eyes on the prize. Our species is counting on us. We have regained dominance over Earth, and now we will ensure that our domain will not be threatened from within again.

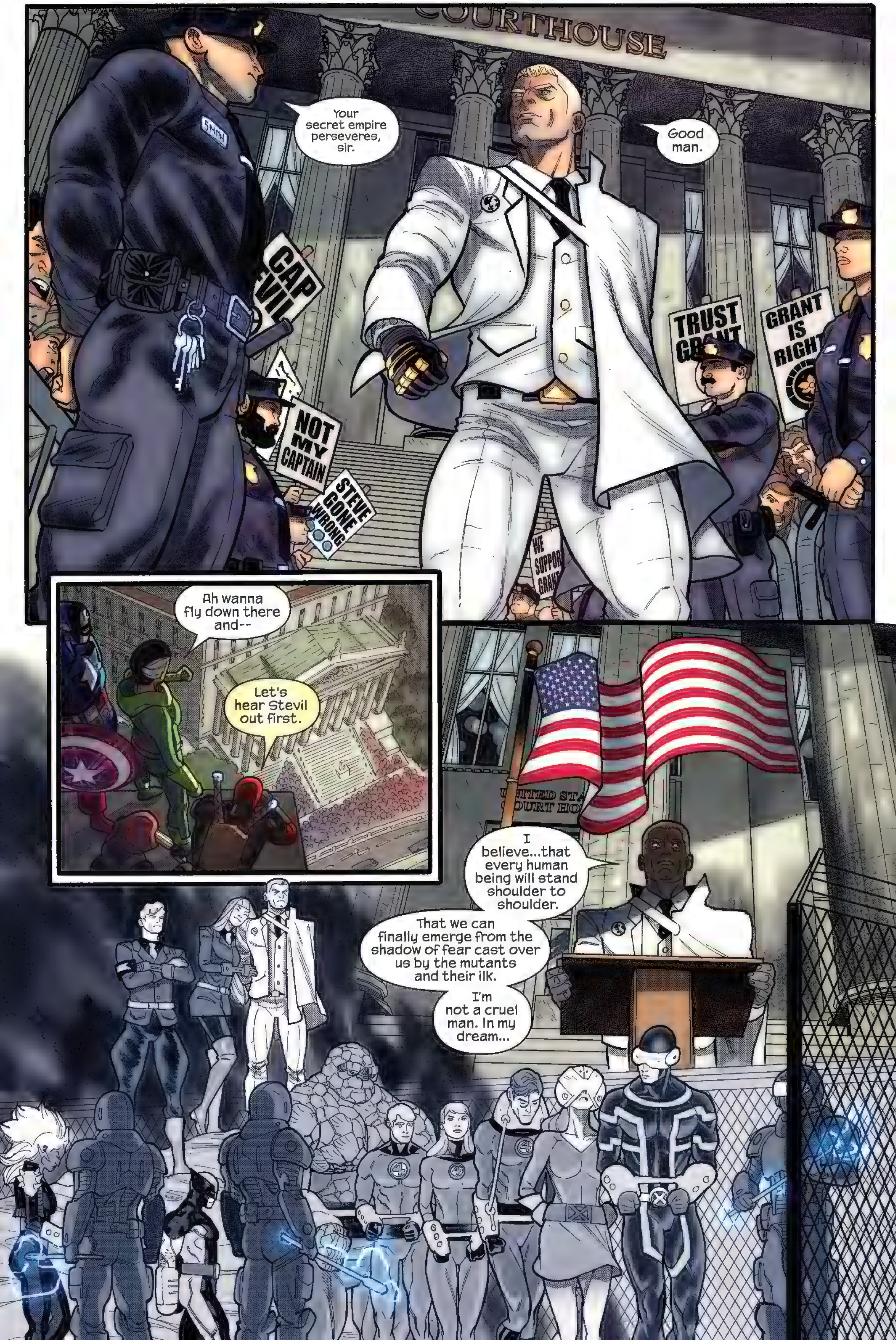
Regards,

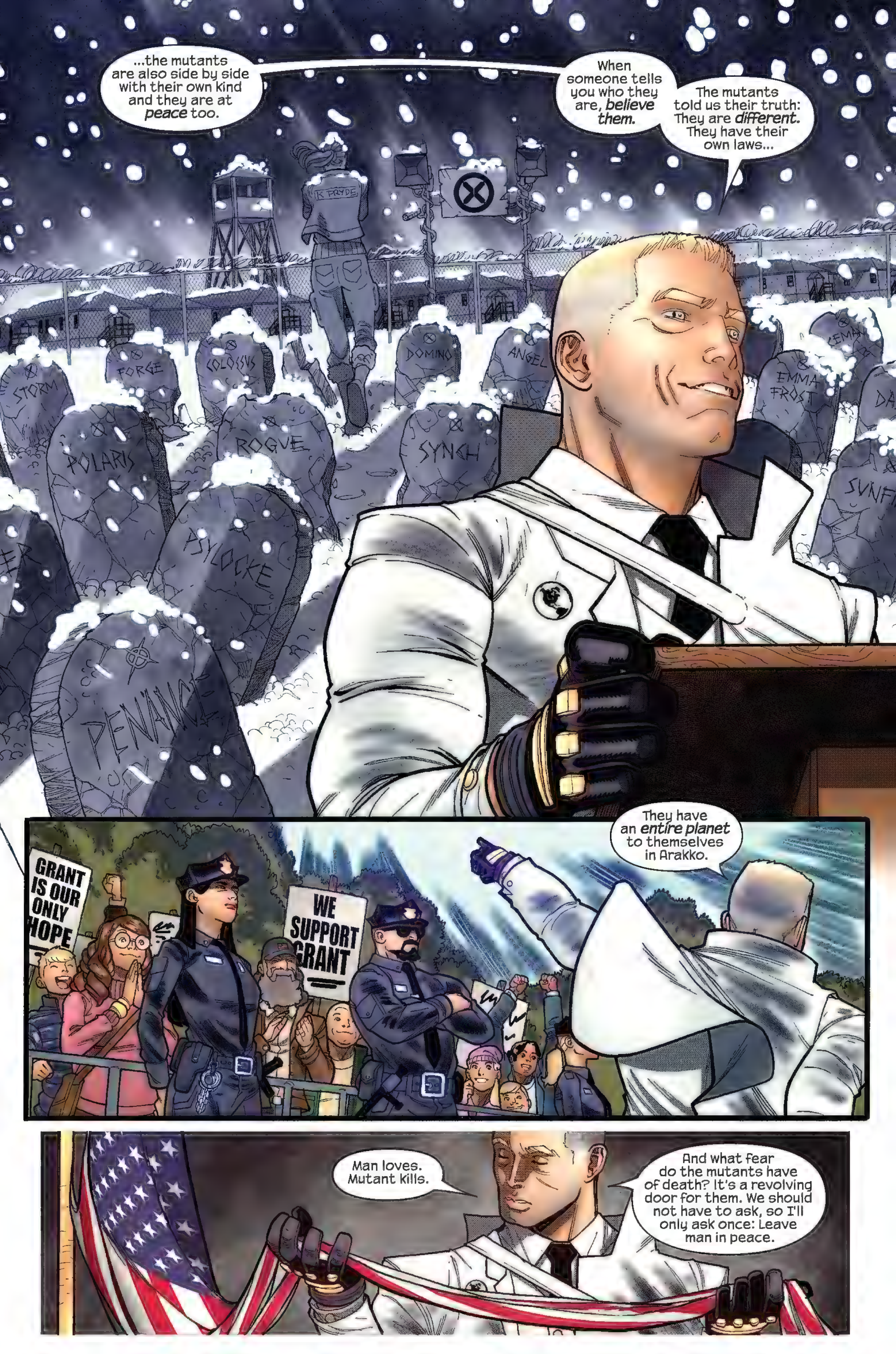
Dr. Stasis

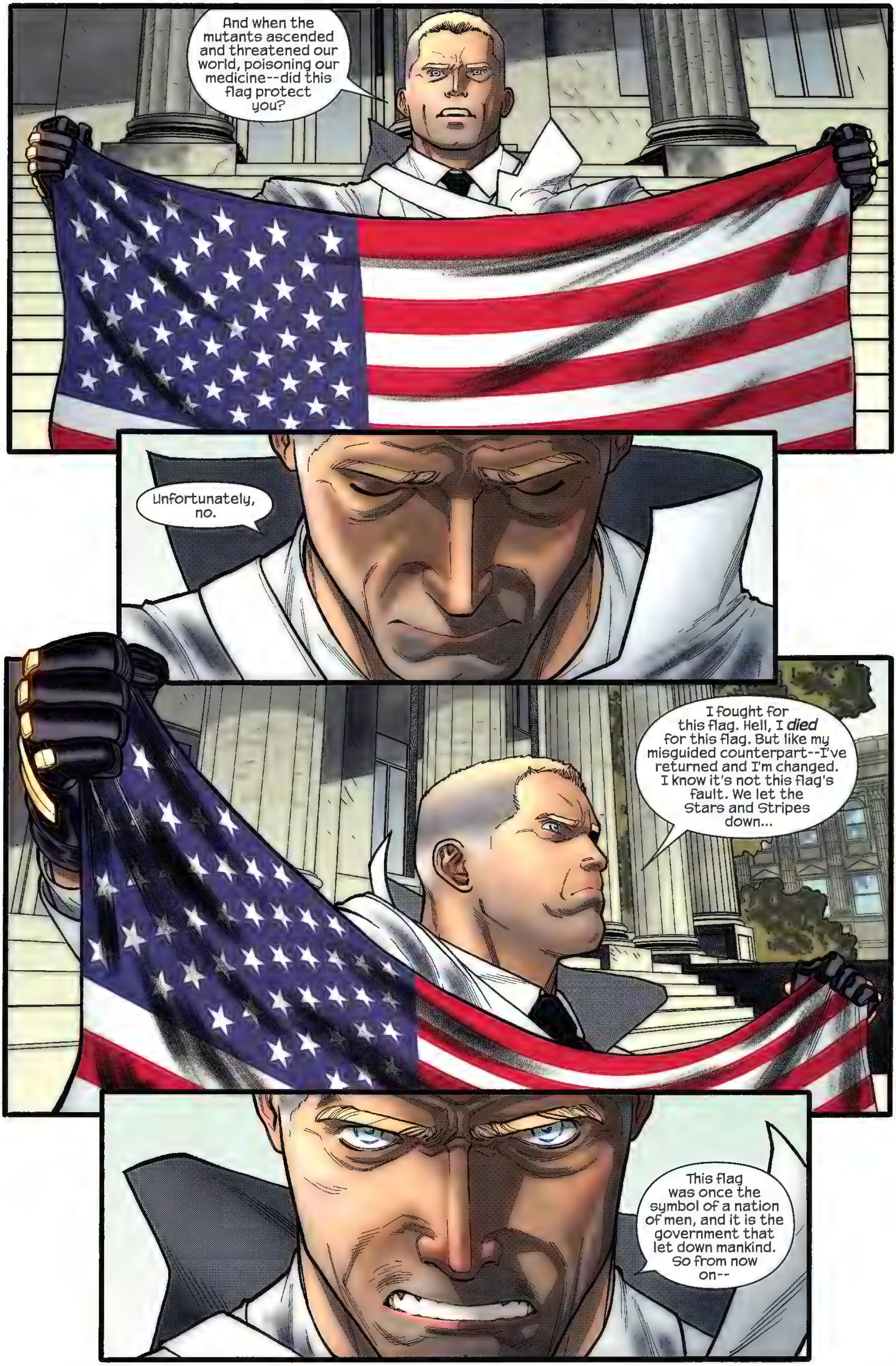
Dr. Stasis
Director, Human/Resources

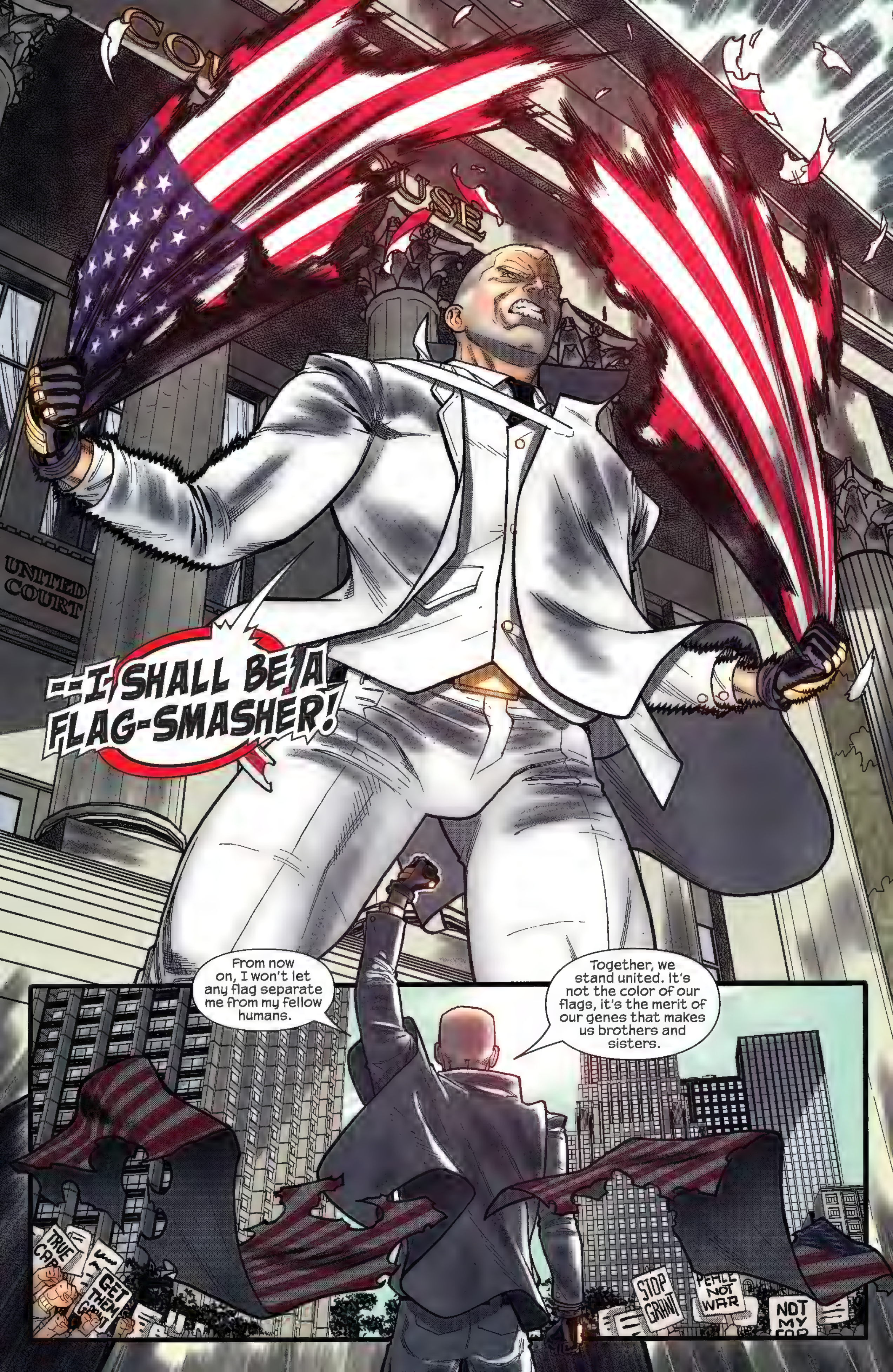
P.S. Speak to your department head if you wish to be considered for retention after our victory. There will be some work to do "cleaning up" and making sure that human carriers of the X-Gene comply with the reproductive laws that will be implemented in the next few months.

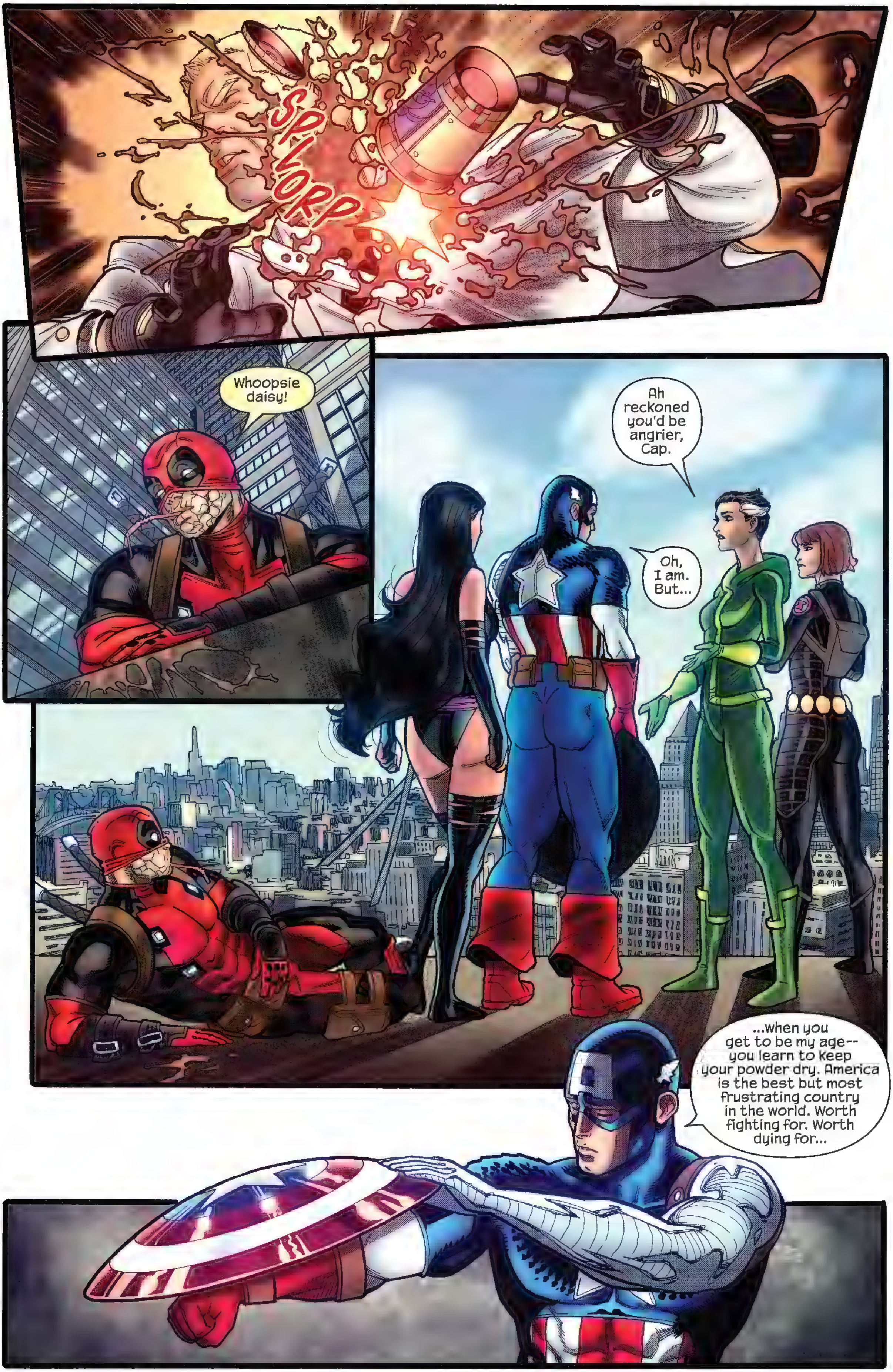

Weeks after the capture of Grant Rogers, A.K.A. "Captain Krakoa," we hoped justice would be done. On the day the trial ended, we were reminded how justice could be *perverted.*
Ah can't believe this.
Some folks gathered to celebrate... others to commiserate.
It was another ugly scene in America, a country that's getting used to ugly scenes.
Stop! There's been enough violence.
As for me, I'll do what I always do. Write the story and let the history books do the rest.
My name is Ben Urich, and I'll be writing the truth of it all in the pages of the *Bugle.*

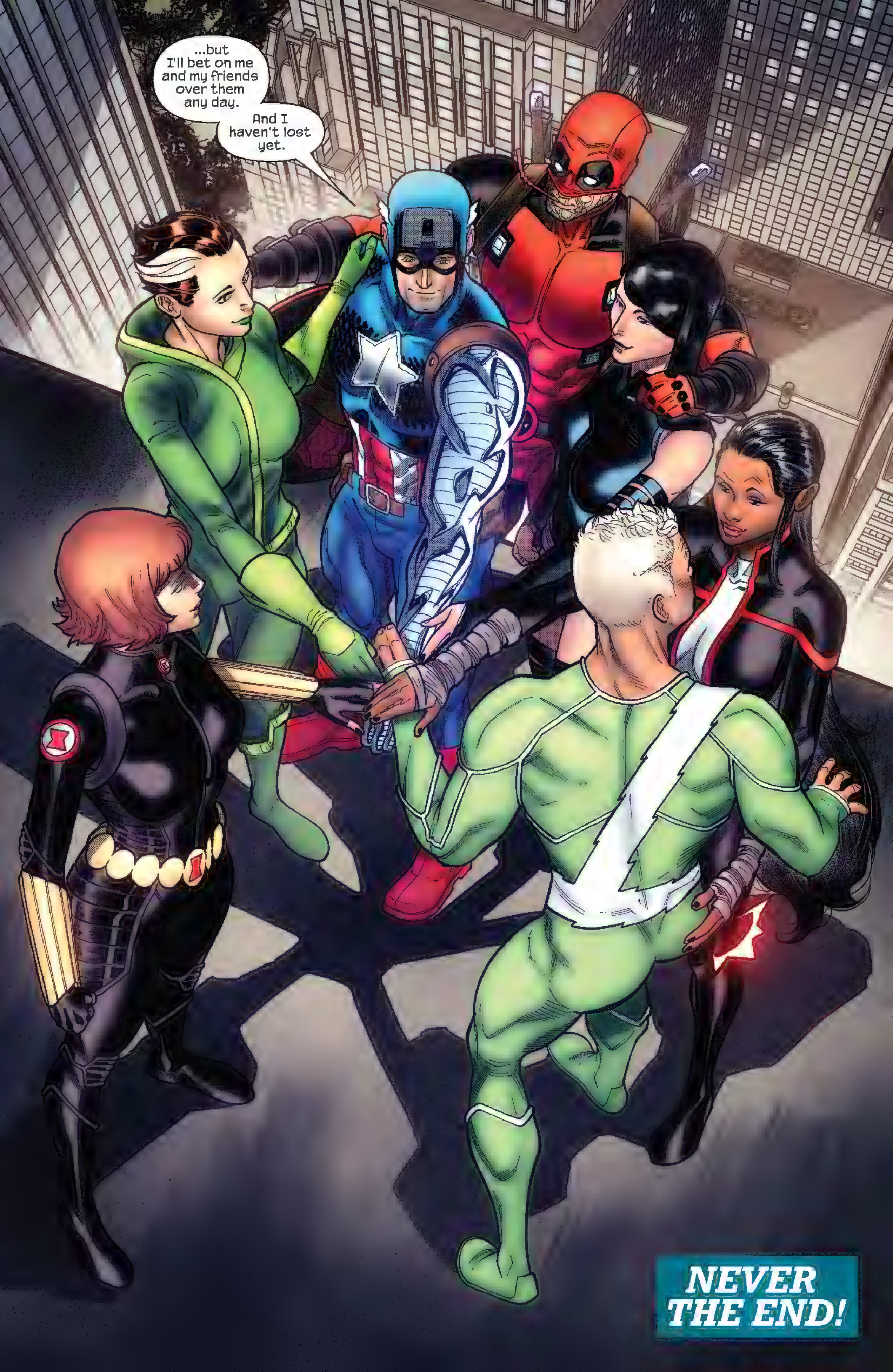

COURTHOUSE
SMITH
Your secret empire perseveres, sir.
Good man.
CAP EVIL
NOT MY CAPTAIN
STEVE GONE WRONG
TRUST GRANT
GRANT IS RIGHT
WE SUPPOR GRAN
Ah wanna fly down there and--
Let's hear Stevil out first.
UNITED STA COURT HO
I believe...that every human being will stand shoulder to shoulder.
That we can finally emerge from the shadow of fear cast over us by the mutants and their ilk.
I'm not a cruel man. In my dream...

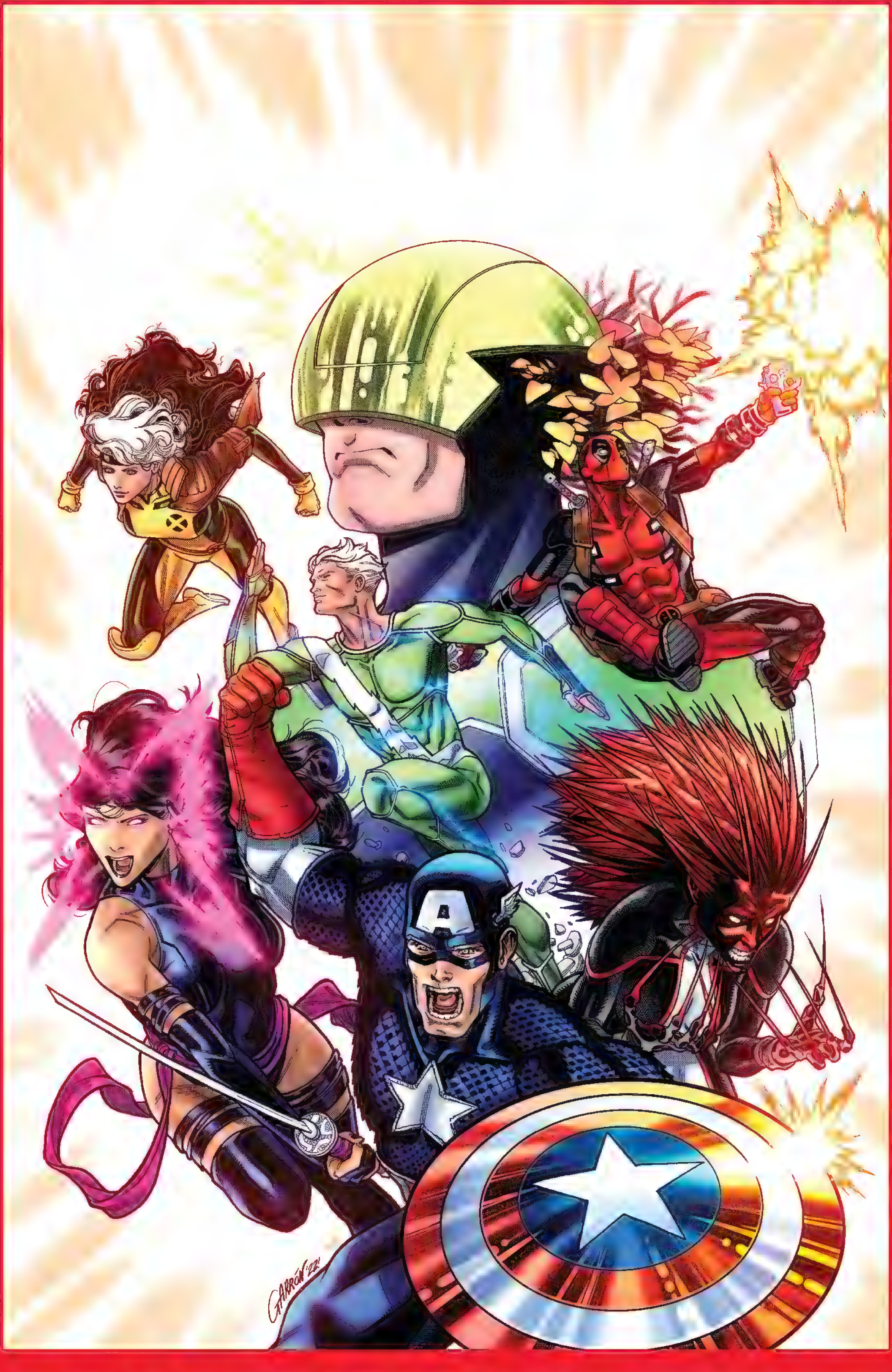

...the mutants are also side by side with their own kind and they are at *peace* too.
When someone tells you who they are, ***believe them.***
The mutants told us their truth: They are ***different.*** They have their own laws...
K PRYDE
STORM
FORGE
COLOSSUS
DOMINO
ANGEL
EMMA FROST
POLARIS
ROGUE
SYNCH
PSYLOCKE
PENANCE
They have an ***entire planet*** to themselves in Arakko.
GRANT IS OUR ONLY HOPE
WE SUPPORT GRANT
Man loves. Mutant kills.
And what fear do the mutants have of death? It's a revolving door for them. We should not have to ask, so I'll only ask once: Leave man in peace.


And when the mutants ascended and threatened our world, poisoning our medicine--did this flag protect you?
Unfortunately, no.
I fought for this flag. Hell, I *died* for this flag. But like my misguided counterpart--I've returned and I'm changed. I know it's not this flag's fault. We let the Stars and Stripes down...
This flag was once the symbol of a nation of men, and it is the government that let down mankind. So from now on--


--I SHALL BE A FLAG-SMASHER!
From now on, I won't let any flag separate me from my fellow humans.
Together, we stand united. It's not the color of our flags, it's the merit of our genes that makes us brothers and sisters.
UNITED COURT
STOP GRANT
PEACE NOT WAR
NOT MY
GET THEM
TRUE

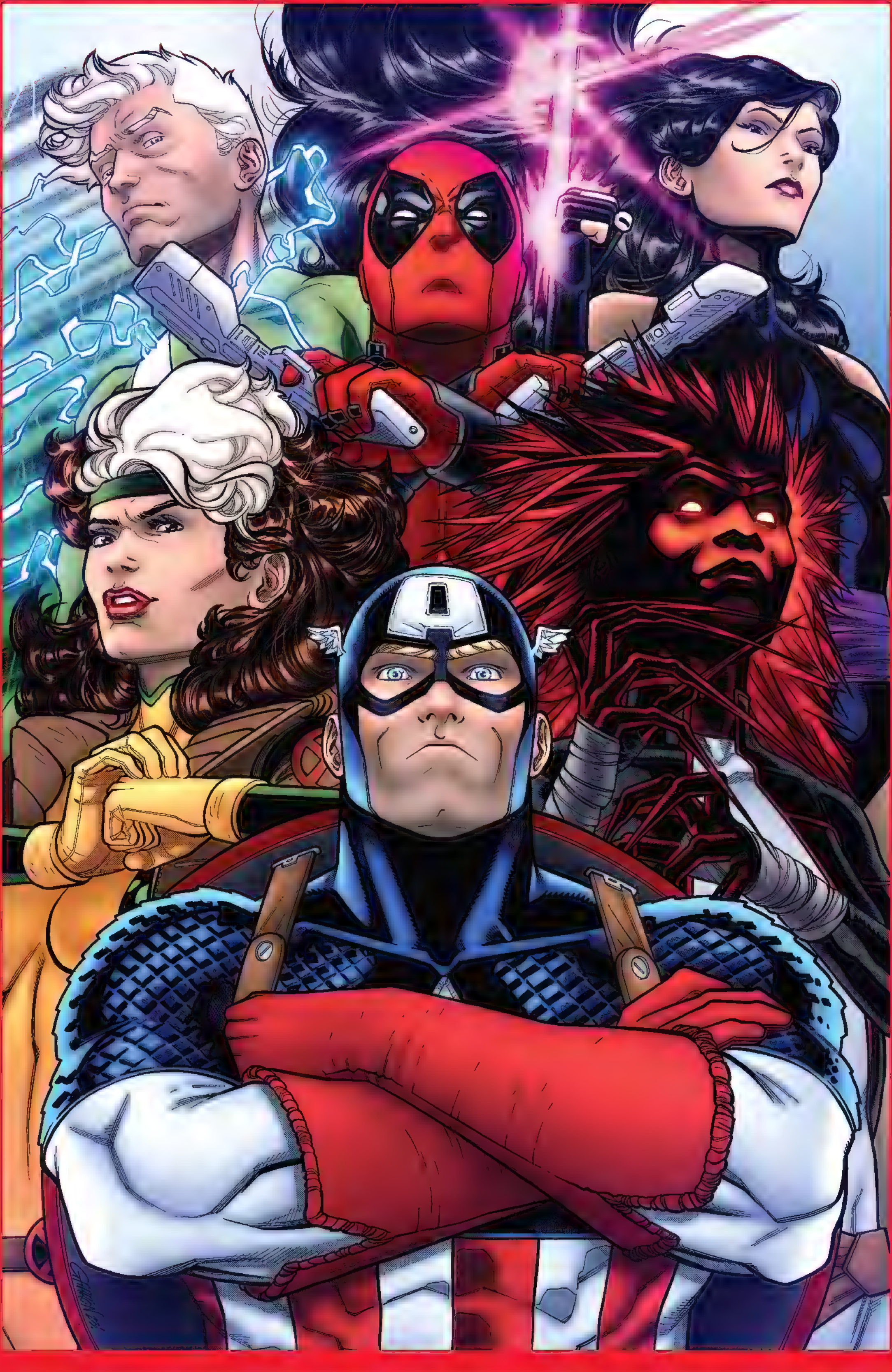

SPLORP
Whoopsie daisy!
Ah reckoned you'd be angrier, Cap.
Oh, I am. But...
...when you get to be my age-- you learn to keep your powder dry. America is the best but most frustrating country in the world. Worth fighting for. Worth dying for...


...but I'll bet on me and my friends over them any day.
And I haven't lost yet.
NEVER THE END!



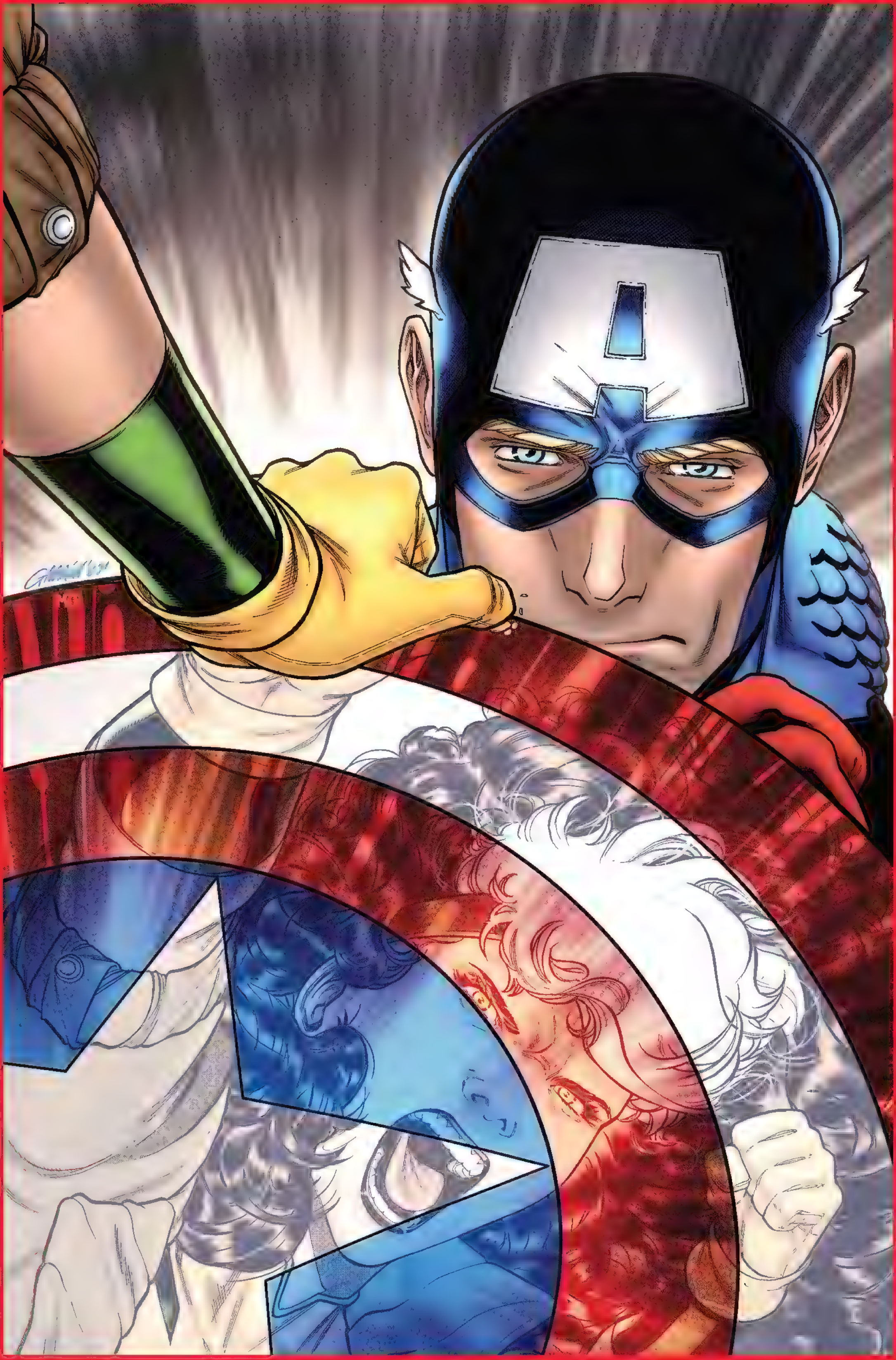
Free Comic Book Day: Avengers/X-Men #1

by Javier Garrón
& Morry Hollowell



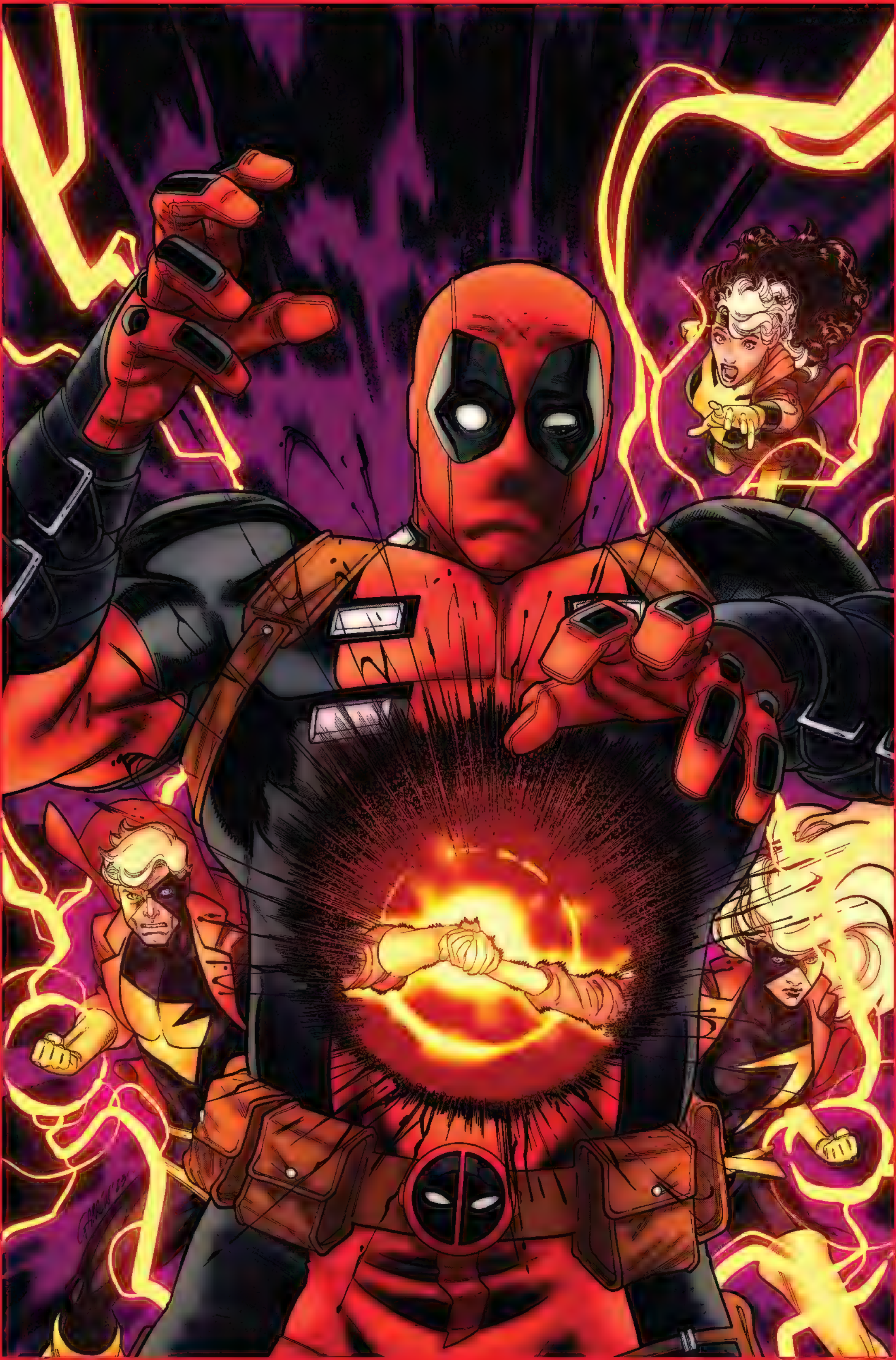
Uncanny Avengers #1

by Javier Garrón
& Morry Hollowell



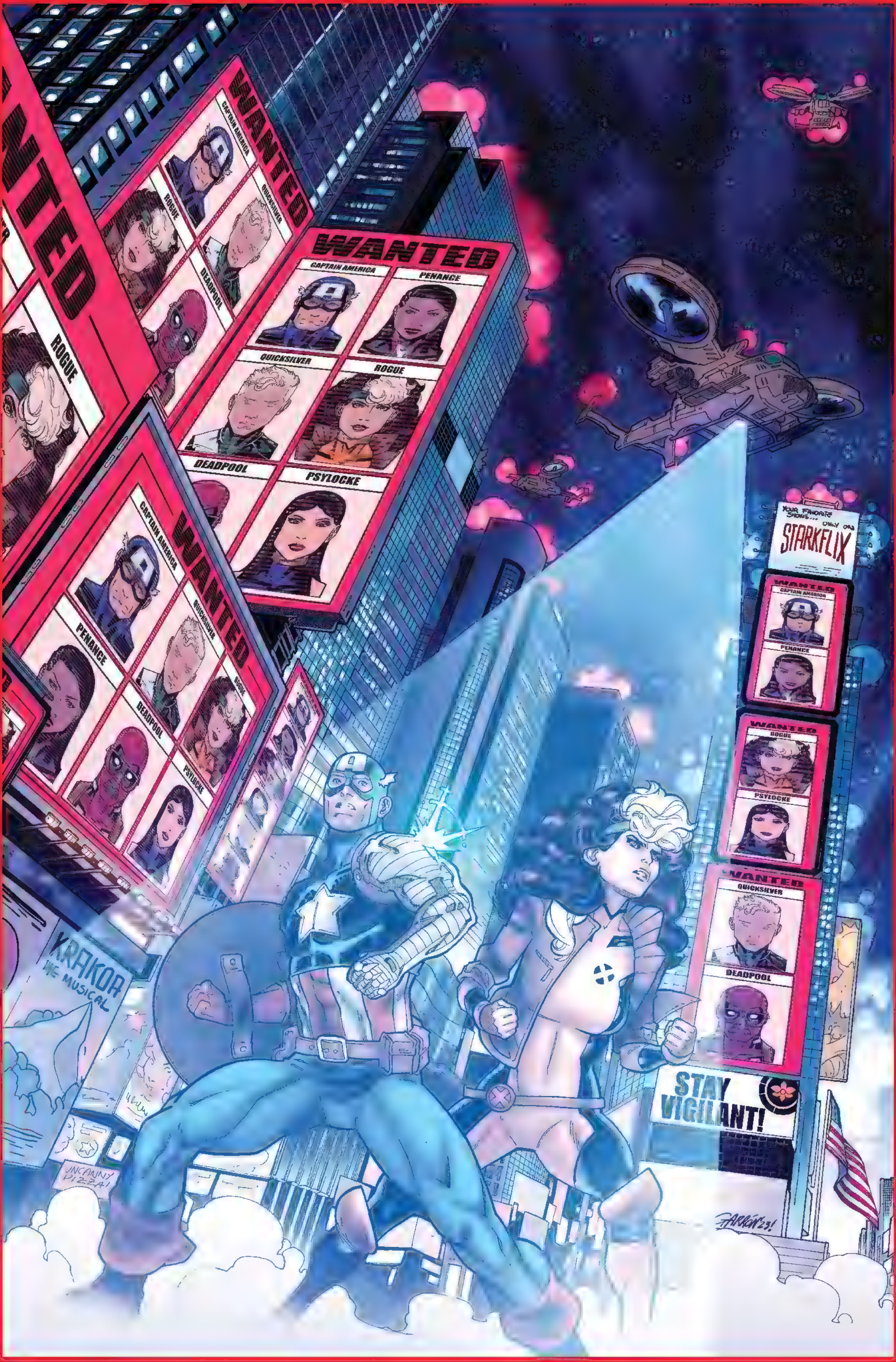
Uncanny Avengers #2

by Javier Garrón
& Morry Hollowell



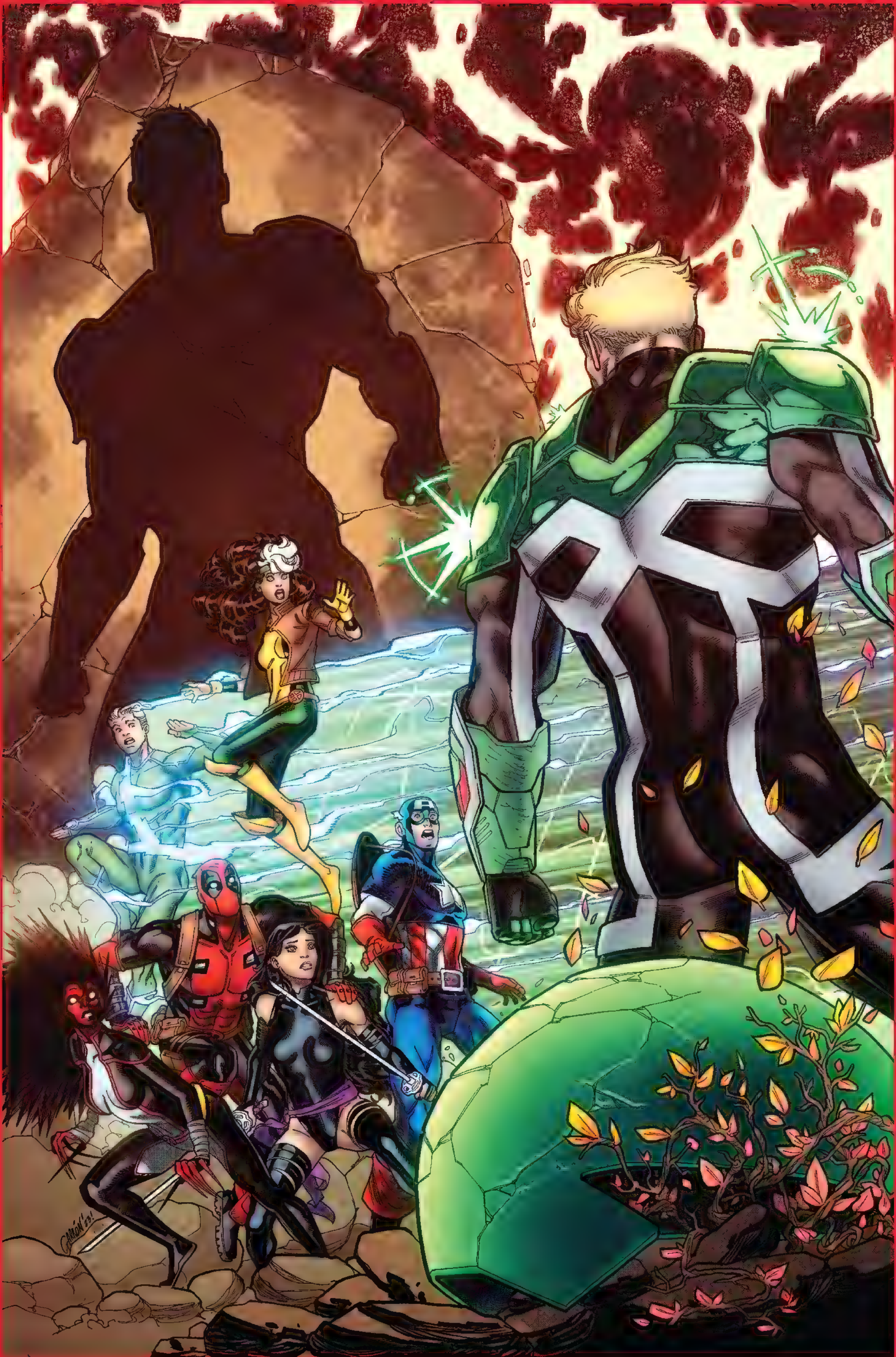
Uncanny Avengers #3

by Javier Garrón
& Morry Hollowell


WANTED
CAPTAIN AMERICA
PENANCE
QUICKSILVER
ROGUE
DEADPOOL
PSYLOCKE
YOUR FAVORITE SHOWS... ONLY ON
STARKFLIX
KRAKOA THE MUSICAL
UNCANNY PIZZA!
STAY VIGILANT!
GARRÓN'23

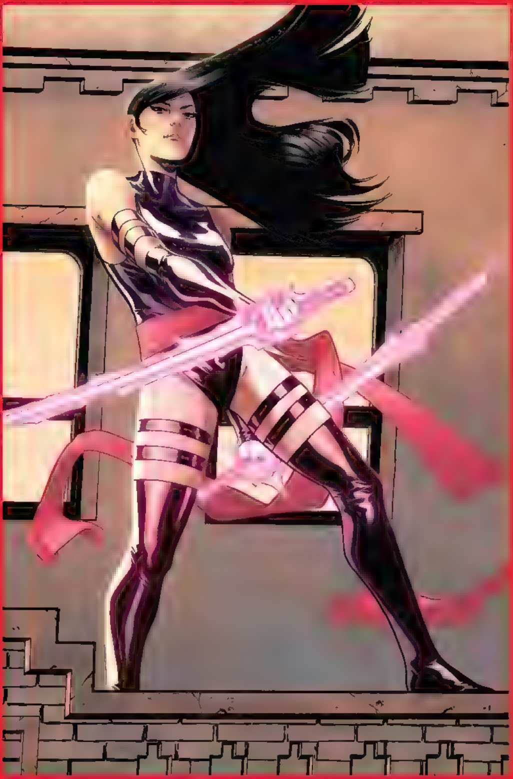
Uncanny Avengers #4

by Javier Garrón
& Morry Hollowell

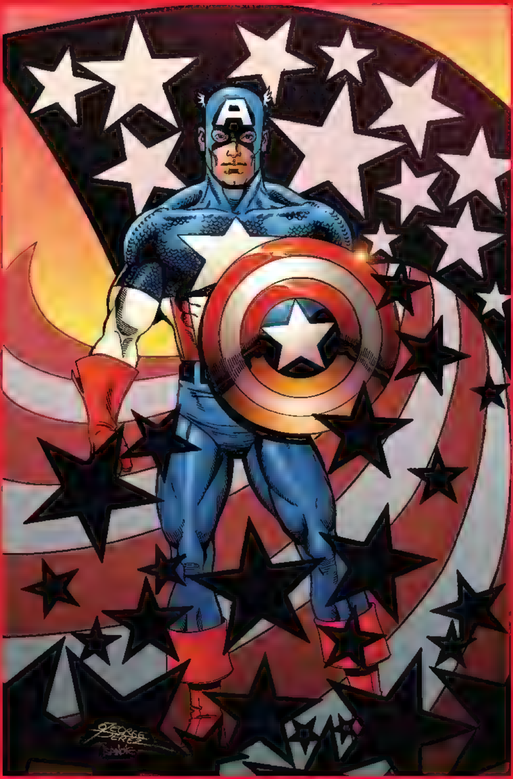


Uncanny Avengers #5

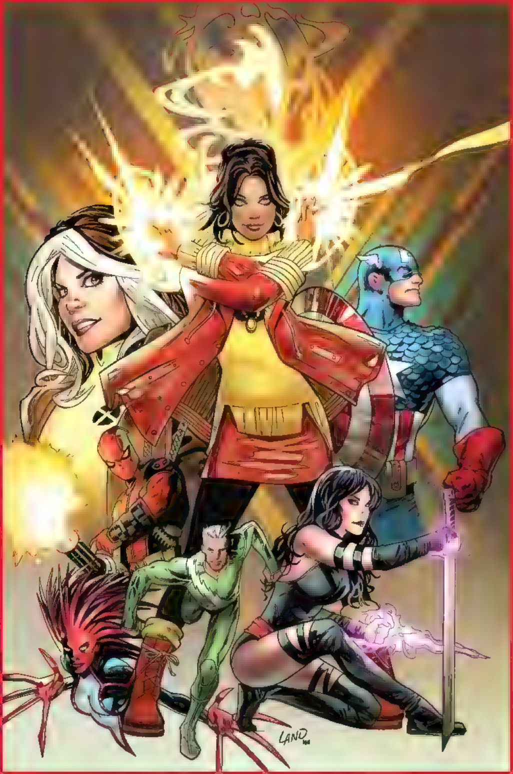
by Javier Garrón
& Morry Hollowell



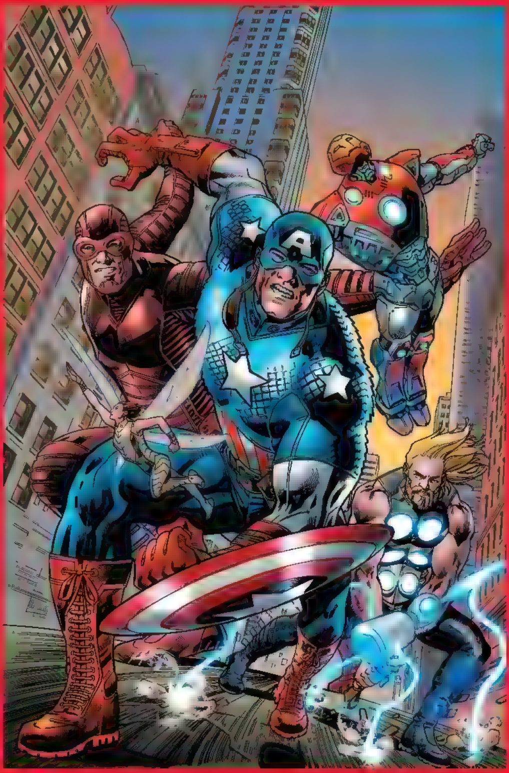
Uncanny Avengers #1 Women of Marvel Variant by Elena Casagrande & Jordie Bellaire



Uncanny Avengers #1 Variant by George Pérez & Richard Isanove



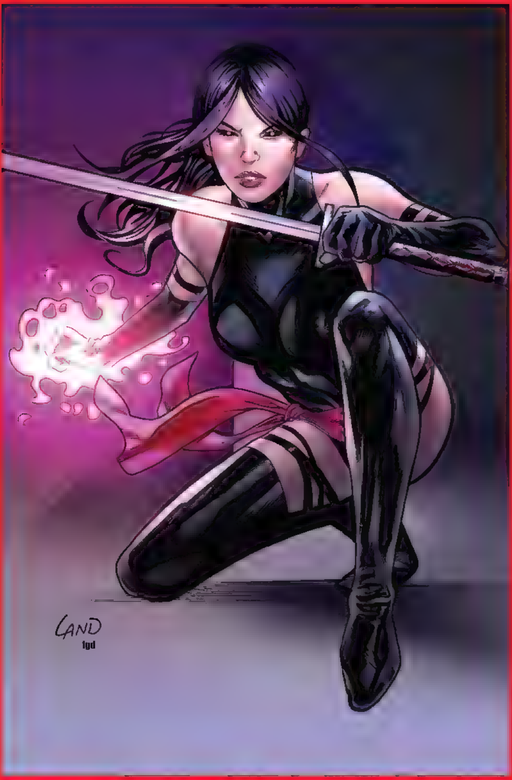
Uncanny Avengers #1 G.O.D.S. Variant by Greg Land & Frank D'Armata



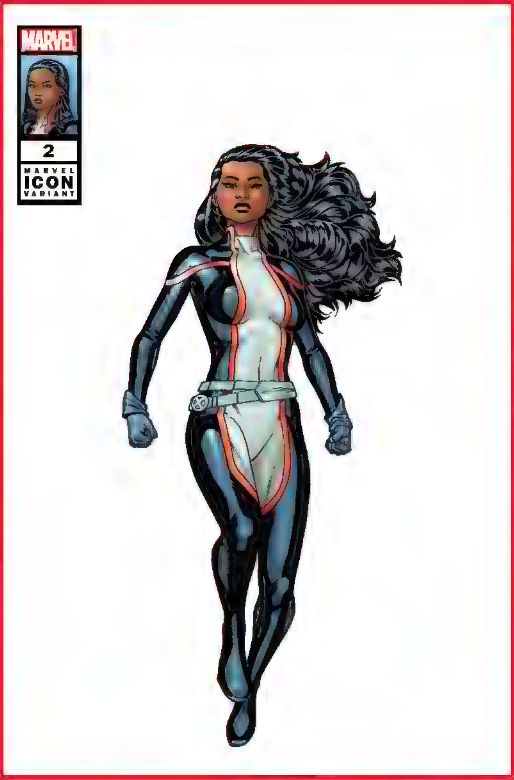
Uncanny Avengers #2 Avengers 60th Variant by Bryan Hitch & Paul Mounts

Uncanny Avengers #2 Variant

by Ryan Stegman
& Dave McCaig



Uncanny Avengers #2 Variant
by Greg Land & Frank D'Armata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Uncanny Avengers #2 Marvel Icon Variant
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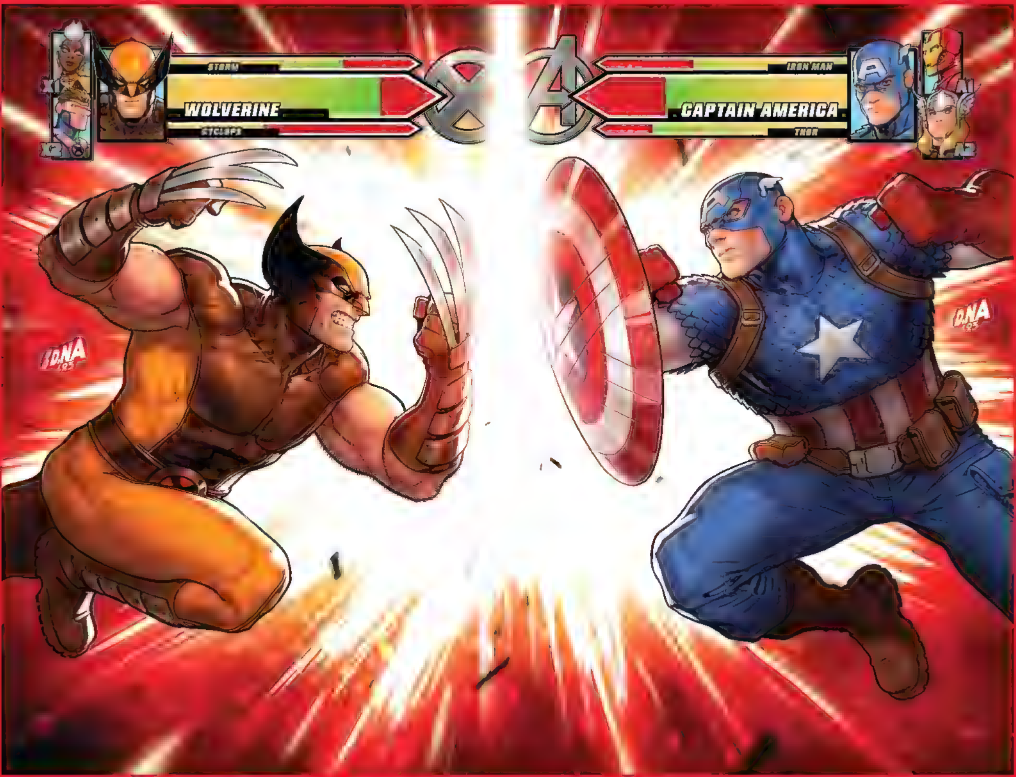
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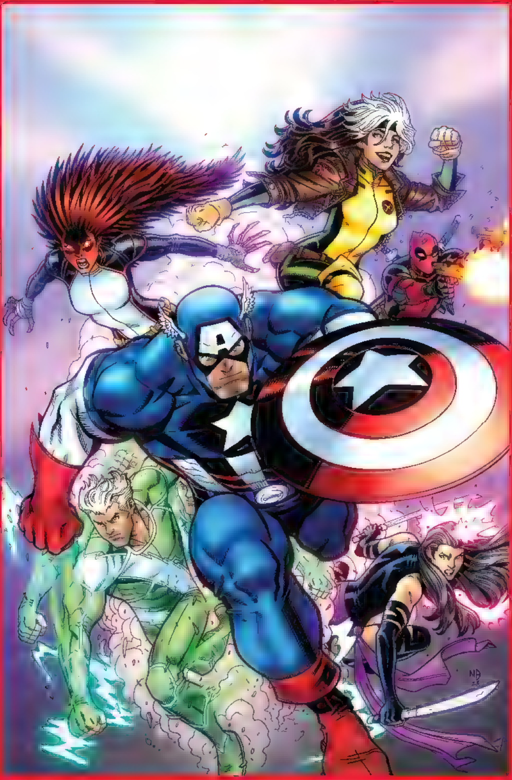

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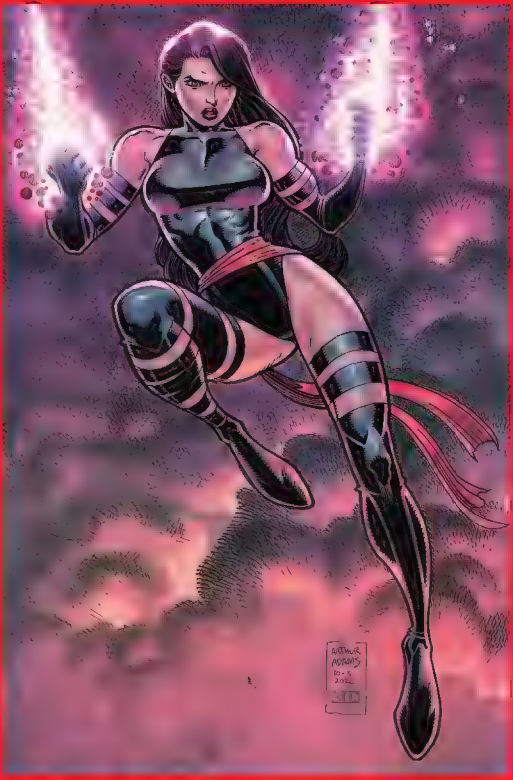

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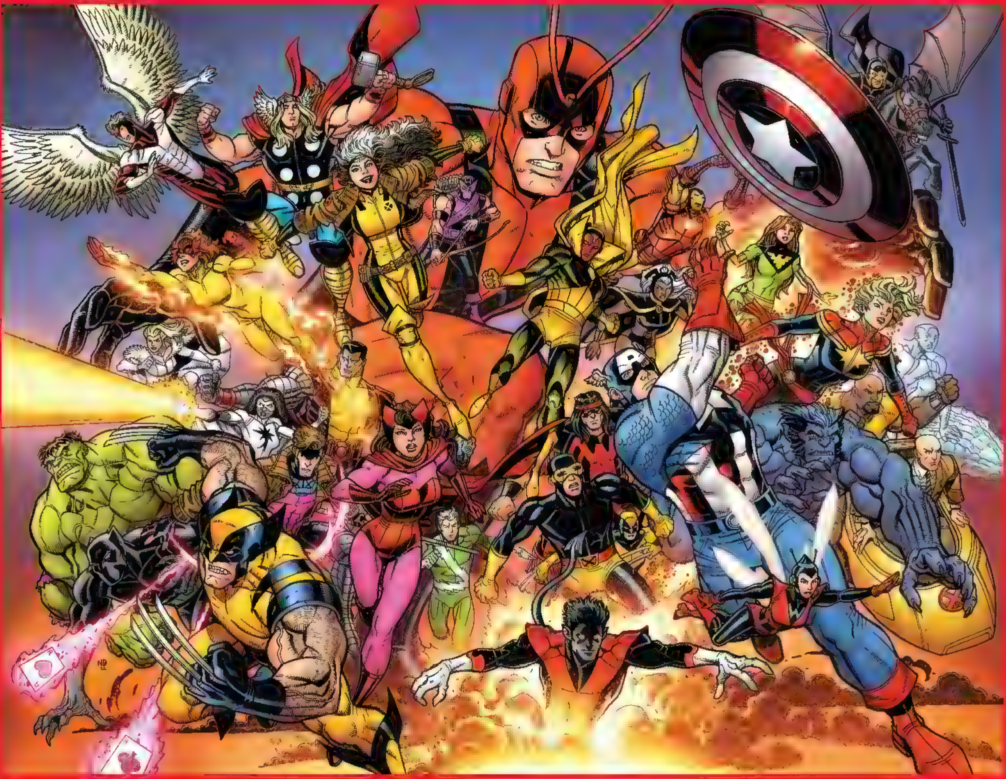

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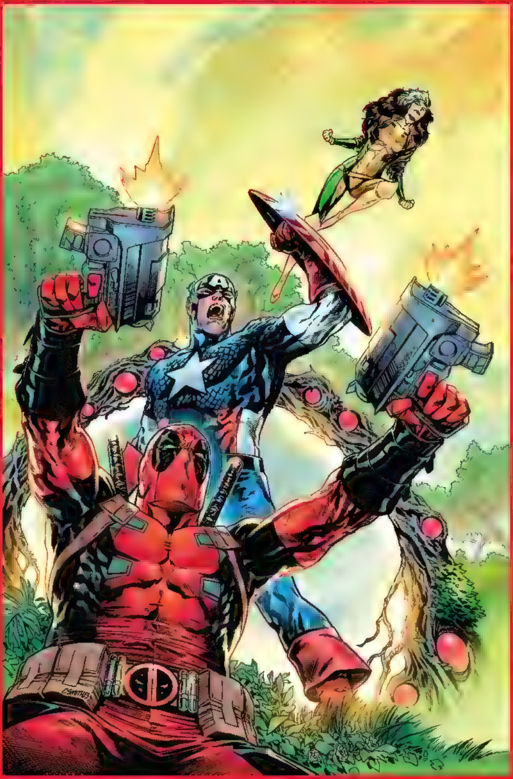

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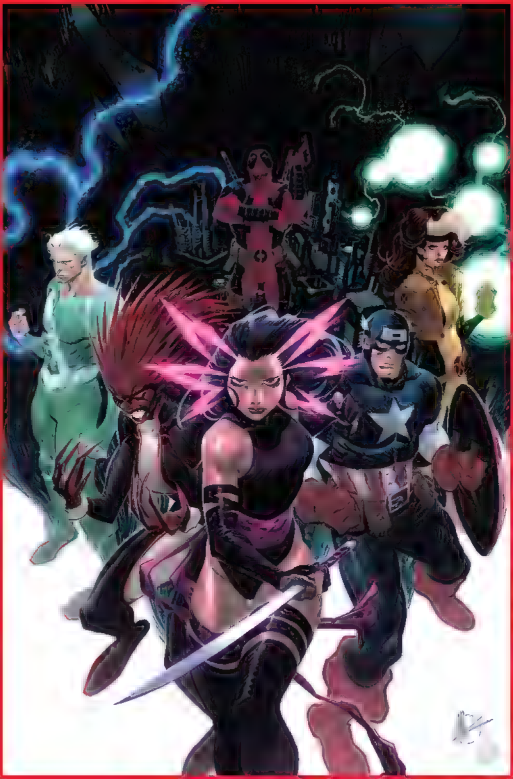

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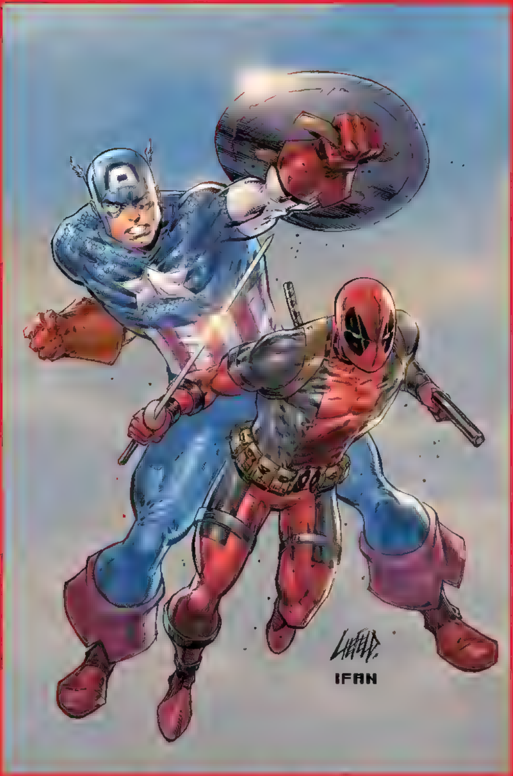

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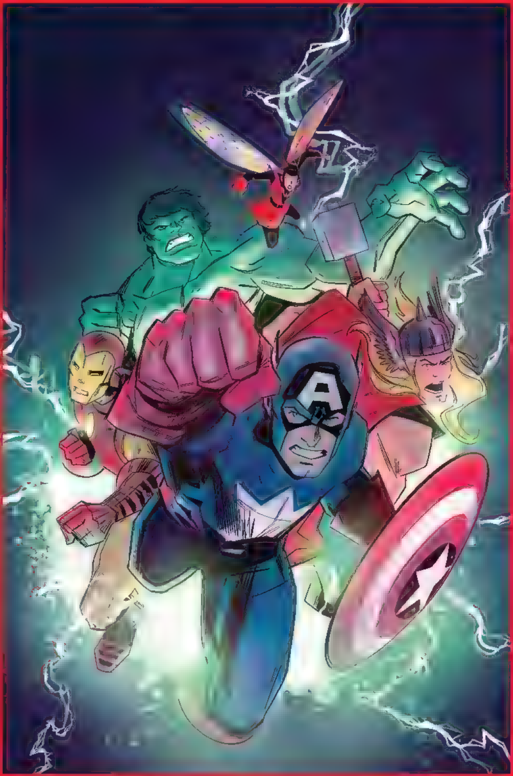

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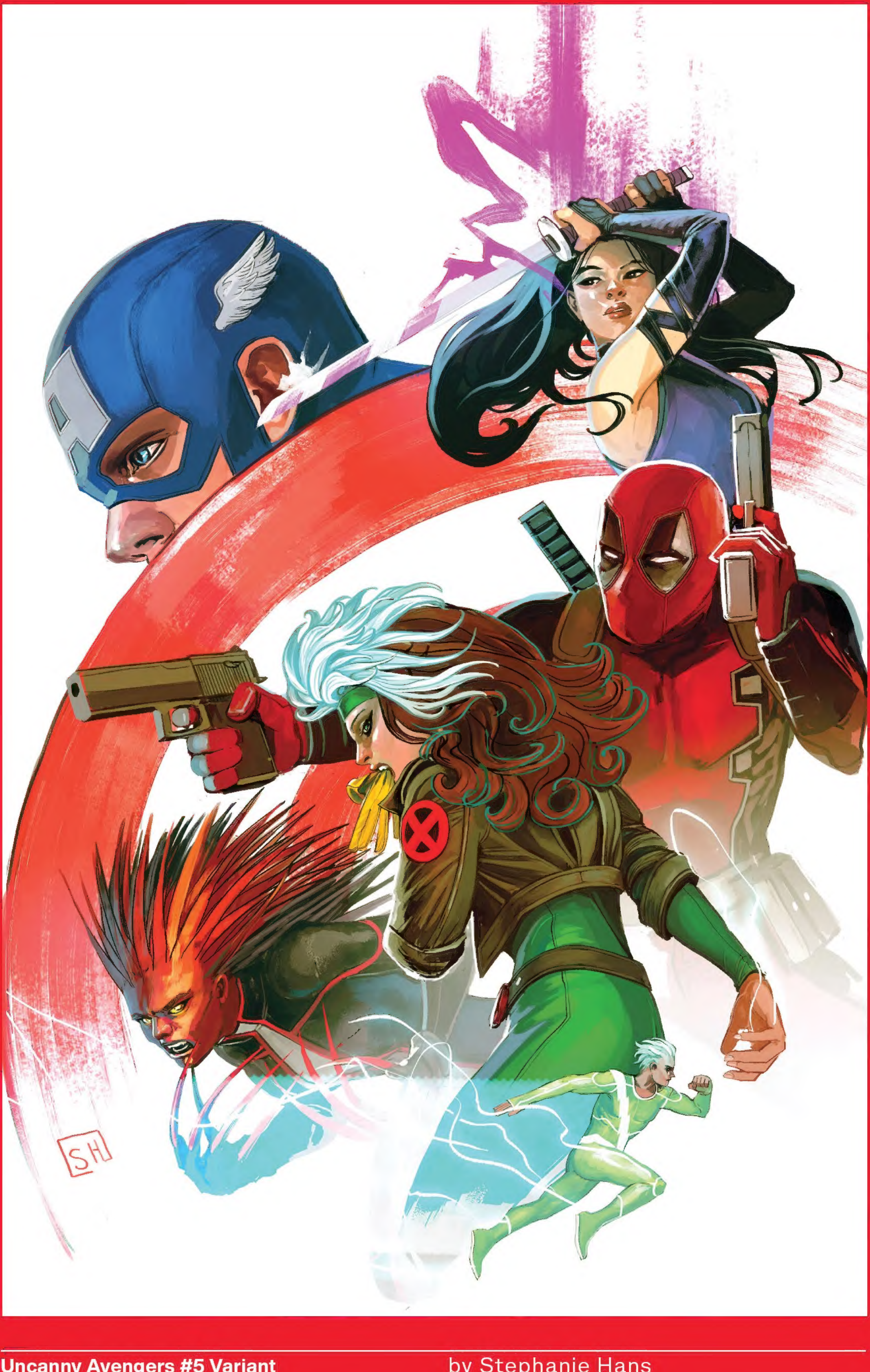

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